

Moscow bogged down on emigration bill

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament was deadlocked on Monday over a bill to guarantee the right to travel abroad, with many deputies suggesting authorities could not cope with a flood of tourists and would-be emigrants. A series of votes in the Supreme Soviet failed to secure passage of the emigration law despite two years of preparation by deputies and experts. Officials said the legislation would be considered again later in the week. "I am sure we will find a solution," Fikryat Tabeyev, one of the authors of the law, told reporters. "This will probably involve adopting the law and giving the government time to prepare its implementation." The legislation, viewed as a key part of President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms, has generated fears in Western Europe that waves of emigrants will flee the country's collapsing economy in search of work. It is also considered a benchmark in superpower ties as the United States and its allies have made the granting of trade benefits and credits contingent on its passage.

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Jordan optimistic over Cairo meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Monday the first high-level meeting of the Arab League since the Gulf war could prove thorny but Jordan hopes it would help to repair differences created by the Gulf crisis.

The meeting of Arab foreign ministers and other representatives in Cairo Wednesday is an important step towards beginning new inter-Arab cooperation, Mr. Masri told Radio Jordan.

"The Arab situation is unstable, there are lots of tough divisions... I hope the ministers would succeed, even if it is gradual, in restoring links between Arab countries," he said.

Spain: EC must attend conference

MADRID (R) — Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez said Monday that the European Community (EC) must take part in any international Middle East peace conference. "Our view is that there should be a conference and that the EC must take part in it," Mr. Ordonez told reporters at Madrid airport on his way to Brussels for a meeting of EC foreign ministers to discuss the Middle East and European issues. The EC was the biggest supplier and customer of the Arab countries and Israel, Mr. Ordonez said. "Therefore the participation of Europe would be the consequence of a positive reality and would help to find solutions in these decisive moments."

Bessmertnykh cancels visit to Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh has cancelled a scheduled visit to Lebanon, official sources said Monday. They said Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Gennadiy Ilichev told Lebanese Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Suhail Chammas that Mr. Bessmertnykh would not visit Beirut as part of his current Middle East tour. The sources quoted Mr. Ilichev late on Sunday as saying the Lebanon trip was called off because of "unexpected circumstances." They gave no further details.

Mubarak to visit U.K. in July

LONDON (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will make a state visit to Britain in July, Buckingham Palace announced Monday. Mr. Mubarak and his wife will stay at the palace during their stay, from July 23 to 26, the palace said.

Court charges Bhutto with misusing funds

LAHORE (R) — A Pakistani court charged on Monday former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto with misuse of secret funds, her lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan said. Mrs. Bhutto denied the charges, he said. "I shall never give details of the disbursement of the fund even under the pressure and threat of disqualification as such disclosure would not be in the national interest," he quoted her as saying. Mrs. Bhutto, dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan last August, faces eight charges of abusing her position in her 20 months as prime minister.

Croatian Serbs want union with Serbia

BELGRADE (AP) — Ethnic Serbs in Croatia have voted overwhelmingly to join their stronghold in the restive republic to the largest republic of Serbia, results of a referendum showed Monday. The preliminary returns from Sunday's balloting in western Croatia showed that 90 per cent of those taking part had voted for union with Serbia, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported.

Superpowers vow to pursue peace efforts despite negative signals

CAIRO (R) — The two superpowers Monday vowed to pursue efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference despite a Syrian rebuff and volley of headline statements in Israel ahead of a visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

"Nobody can impose peace on the parties. They've got to want it," Mr. Baker told reporters after meeting Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak over lunch.

Mr. Baker told a joint news conference with Mr. Bessmertnykh that both superpowers would continue working for a peace conference.

The U.S. envoy is to visit Jordan on Tuesday and fly on to Israel later that day. Mr. Bessmertnykh left Cairo Monday for Saudi Arabia and Palestinian officials said he was expected to meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat later in Geneva.

Conceding that wide differences remained between Syria

and Israel about the proposed conference, especially on the role of the United Nations, Mr. Baker said:

"There are significant differences... between the positions of the governments of Syria and Israel with respect to whether or not there should be any United Nations involvement, and with respect to whether or not the conference should be a one-time affair or should have some sort of continuity."

Mr. Baker is due to end his fourth Middle East mission in the past two months in Israel. U.S. officials are equally pessimistic about his prospects for progress there.

On Sunday, however, President George Bush said Mr. Baker's mission had produced encouraging results but said it was too early to gauge long-term prospects for peace.

Mr. Bush said the decision by the six Arab states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to send an observer to any peace conference was very encouraging.

He added that he had discussed the Middle East, with other matters, in a phone call with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Saturday, and added: "We ironed out a few difficulties."

In a six-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Saturday, Mr. Baker failed to persuade him to be more flexible on arrangements for the conference.

On Monday, Syria's official daily newspaper Tishreen accused Israel of deliberately trying to foil the search for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict by greeting U.S. diplomacy with provocative statements.

Damascus says it will take part in peace talks in which the U.N. and European nations have an important role, but Israel opposes U.N. or European involvement.

Israel's right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir vowed once again on Saturday that Israel

King contacts Assad

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein contacted Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Monday to discuss the U.S. Middle East peace mission, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The two leaders exchanged views on the latest developments in the Arab World, particularly international peace efforts based on the U.S. initiative to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the Palestinian problem, the agency said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited Damascus Sunday and held talks with President Assad. But all indications were that the Baker mission had run into trouble, particularly after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's vow not to return any Arab land in exchange for peace.

Mr. Baker, who is due in Jordan Tuesday, conceded Monday that wide differences remained between Israel and Syria over a proposed Middle East peace conference, especially on the role of the United Nations.

Syria insists that the U.N. play a significant role in peace talks while Israel wants to exclude the international body

Crown Prince familiarises himself with Zarqa problems, urges solutions

ZARQA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday paid a surprise visit to Zarqa Governorate and met with the governors and deputies from the area. Prince Hassan toured the governorate building and inspected its various departments and sections and was briefed by heads of these sections on the nature of their work.

The Crown Prince also toured the markets of Zarqa city.

Prince Hassan affirmed the importance of field visits in following up important issues and meeting officials at the sites of their work.

Prince Hassan said the reason for his visit was to hear the citizens' problems and tackle them wisely and to get all parties concerned to cooperate in solving these problems. He affirmed that officials in the governorate had



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan joins a team of workers on a Zarqa road during a visit he paid to the northern city Monday (Petra photo)

expressed their true will to develop it, "a crystallisation of the way they envisage the governorate would be in the future and of

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Government reviews steps to tackle water pollution problem

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Monday

chaired a meeting attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Massadeh and several Cabinet members to follow up measures taken by the ministries to overcome problems facing farmers and the agricultural sector in general in the Jordan Valley, particularly difficulties resulting from polluted water of King Talal Dam.

The acting minister of rural, municipal and environmental affairs and health, and the ministers of trade and industry, water and irrigation as well as agriculture briefed the meeting on steps taken by their ministries to tackle the environmental problem in a manner that ensures the protection of the agricultural produce in the Jordan Valley.

Following the meeting, Water and Irrigation Minister Saad Hayel Srour said the pollution of water in King Talal Dam was a result of violations by some industrial establishments, which did not comply with the guidelines set to protect the environment.

Farmers in the Jordan Valley region say they have lost up to JD 60 million due to damaged crops as a result of using polluted water released by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) from the dam for irrigation.

"The pollution caused some changes on the quality of the water used for irrigation," Mr. Srour said. He added that precautionary decisions were taken

to ensure the adherence of all parties with the general specifications for water released by factories or even discarded material used by citizens on daily basis.

The decisions commit the factories to implement precautionary methods such as establishing water treatment plants. Mr. Srour said. He added these factories should establish those plants before the end of May.

Mr. Srour said the damage to crops was attributed to various reasons which range from water or soil quality, the seeds or the saplings used by farmers, or even insecticides.

To determine the type of the problem and its causes, the prime

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Baker to hear reaffirmation of Jordan's stand

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrives in Amman today to brief Jordanian leaders on the outcome of his talks with Syrian, Egyptian and Soviet officials in Damascus and Cairo and to lay out his analysis of where his peace efforts currently stand.

In return, he will be presented with a reaffirmation of the Jordanian position that the Kingdom, while maintaining flexibility over the American approach, will not abandon its demands for a comprehensive peace based on the implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, which call for the

exchange of territories for peace and according the Palestinians their national political rights.

Although Jordan has maintained its positive attitude to the bag of ideas carried by Mr. Baker to the region it has also been very clear in its position that the U.S.-led efforts should deal with the substance of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem rather than the form and modalities of how this objective can be achieved.

The Jordanian position, which is not fundamentally different from the views that Mr. Baker heard from Syrian leaders in Damascus on Sunday, "is not new," a senior official said. "Mr. Baker is fully aware of where we stand," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In the face of the Jordanian and

Syrian position — which in essence seek to ensure that Israel returns occupied Arab territories in exchange for peace — and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's repeated vows on Sunday not to return any Arab land, Mr. Baker's mission could only be furthered if there is any shift in the Israeli stand.

Foreign Minister Taher Masri, in an interview with Jordan Radio, said Monday that peace in the Middle East now depends on Israel and the U.S.'s ability to elicit "new thoughts" from the Israeli leadership and that the Arab World has already expressed its flexibility and its readiness for peace.

Further consolidating the Arab position in the equation is an expected Jordanian refusal to attend any Middle East peace party without Syrian participation.

According to statements issued

by Mr. Baker and remarks attributed to American officials, the two main sticking points are Syria's insistence on an effective U.N. role in a peace conference and the frequency of sessions of the parity.

The Syrian insistence on U.N. role as an observer — even less than that of the proposed European Community role — is diagonally opposite to the Israeli rejection of any role for the world body which it sees as hostile to Israel. Jordanian officials say they will not be speaking on Syria's behalf and that the similar positions of Amman and Damascus are reflective of both countries' insistence on guarantees from the U.S. that the peace conference would be effective in reaching a solution to the Middle East problem.

To Jordan, the international

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. takes over Zakho refugee camp from U.S.

ZAKHO, Iraq (Agencies) — The United Nations handed over administration of a refugee camp in northern Iraq to the United Nations Monday, taking an initial step towards disengagement from the Kurdish refugee quagmire.

Raising the U.N. flag over the sprawling tent city at Zakho, special envoy for refugees Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan said: "We hope this is going to contribute to a climate of confidence and so this is a very important ceremony."

He spoke hours after the United Nations sent its first food convoy through allied lines to the Iraqi provincial capital of Dohuk. Many of the hundreds of thousands of Kurds who fled to Turkey after a failed rebellion in March came from the city and are afraid to return as long as Iraqi troops remain there.

Speaking after the Zakho ceremony, U.S. Lieutenant-General John Shalikashvili, commander of Western forces in the area, made clear the United States had no intention of moving troops into Dohuk.

"I think it is all our hopes, and certainly mine, that we can fashion arrangements that will allow the Kurdish population to return to their homes without necessarily our presence preceding them," he said.

In London, the Defence Ministry said royal marines opened fire at two Iraqi soldiers in northern Iraq Monday after twice coming under fire.

There were no injuries to the marines and no word on casualties on the Iraqi side, said a royal navy spokeswoman.

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Soviet Union says U.S. walking thin line in Iraq

CAIRO (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh warned Monday that the United States was walking a thin line in its involvement in northern Iraq.

The issue came up in a wide-ranging meeting between the Soviet minister and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that also covered bilateral issues, arms control, the Middle East and other regional conflicts.

"We talked about the situation in northern Iraq and about the thin line that separates the necessity of humanitarian support and the concern for the sovereignty of a country," Mr. Bessmertnykh said in a joint news conference with Mr. Baker.

"This is a very intricate balance and I think it is good that we have discussed it," he added.

Mr. Baker offered a spirited

justification for the role of U.S. troops in creating a safe area for mainly Kurdish Iraqi refugees in northern Iraq.

"I pointed out to the minister the United States stepped into the breach in this connection because we did not feel that anyone else was in a position to do what had to be done to save lives," Mr. Baker said.

He said the United States wanted to remove its troops as soon as it could be sure of the safety of the Kurdish population and international relief workers.

"It is very important in our view that the United Nations and other international relief agencies come into northern Iraq and pick up responsibility for the Kurdish population there," he said.

Iraq last week rejected the idea

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Women seek premier's action in federation dispute

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A simmering one-year-old dispute between women activists and the Ministry of Social Development has boiled over as a result of delayed action in holding new federation elections.

In a memorandum to Prime Minister Mudar Badran, members of the Jordanian Women's Federation have aired their grievances and requested the prime minister to call new federation elections immediately and thus end the dispute, which involves secular and Islamic groups in the federation.

The memo said that new elections should be held because the Higher Court of Justice has ruled that the elections that the federation held on Aug. 27 last year were null and void as of Jan. 27 this year.

The memo, a copy of which was

made available to the Jordan Times, charges that the Ministry of Social Development and an interim executive committee it appointed are delaying the implementation of the court verdict in a bid to contest the by-laws of the federation and deprive independent members of their voting rights.

The Ministry of Social Development appointed the committee following the court ruling. Its three months term expired and was extended to June 18 and no date has yet been set for the election.

The conflict, which pits current or former executive council members of the Amman chapter of the federation representing independent, pan-Arab and leftist trends against Islamic women, purportedly supported by the Muslim Brotherhood, dates back to early 1990.

Following the general elections to parliament in November 1989,

political groupings have been trying to exert their influence through various federations and organisations in the Kingdom.

Observers say that the women's federation was "infiltrated by Islamist women" to the extent that the authority of the executive committee in power was challenged in mid-1990. The committee was forced to resign by the Ministry of Social Development, under whose umbrella the federation operates, and the ministry called the Aug. 22 elections.

Citing Article 12 of the federation charter, boycotting members charged that the elections were illegal and proportional representation was not implemented.

Due to what protesting women called "illegal manipulation of the charter," independent voters were left out of the voting process.

After the court verdict in January, the protesting women were hopeful that their demands would

result in more proportional representation in the executive committee, which directs the federations' national activities.

Since three months have passed and no elections have been called for, the women say, they once again fear that their demands will be "manipulated and side tracked," as one federation member put it.

Independent federation members have continually charged that the interpretation of Article 12 by the Ministry of Social Development was politically motivated.

The contesting members have openly charged that the ministry had made "deliberate discriminatory decisions" in order to favour "organised Islamic elements" in the federation.

"We have now sent our appeal to the prime minister and will see what happens," said one of the contesting women.

U.S. offers to forswear use of chemical weapons

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush announced Monday that the United States would forswear the use of chemical weapons "for any reason," including retaliation, if an international agreement to ban such weapons can be reached.

In the past, the administration had contended that nations should be allowed to retain the right to use weapons in retaliation if attacked by similar weapons.

Mr. Bush said he was taking the step in hopes of accelerating negotiations under way in Geneva towards a global ban on chemical weapons.

He also called on all major issues in the negotiations to be resolved by the end of this year, and a treaty ratified by the end of 1992.

"I hope this initiative... will spur other nations to commit themselves equally to this critical objective," Mr. Bush said in a statement.

The president said he had directed U.S. negotiators to announce the step when the conference on disarmament meets in Geneva on Tuesday.

Mr. Bush also committed the United States to destroy its entire stockpile of existing chemical weapons within 10 years once an international agreement on eliminating such weapons takes effect.

"We are formally forswearing the use of chemical weapons for any reason, including retaliation, against any state, effective when the convention enters into force and will propose that all states follow suit," Mr. Bush said in the statement.

He also said "the United States unconditionally commits itself to the destruction of all our stocks of chemical weapons within 10 years of entry into force" and will call for other nations to join.

The Geneva talks have been dragging on for years with little sign of progress. Officials said the new U.S. initiative was designed to give them new impetus.

Mr. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed a draft agreement at their Washington summit last June to destroy all but 5,000 tonnes each of their chemical weapon stocks by 2002.

For the United States, this meant retaining about two per cent of the total.

Israeli peace crusader presses campaign with fasting, faces jail

TEL AVIV (AP) — While the superpower diplomats shuttle about the Middle East trying to conjure up peace talks, a very different sort of peace initiative is on daily display in a Tel Aviv park.

Abie Nathan is fasting again for the right to Yasser Arafat.

Lunatic, self-publicist, crackpot — Mr. Nathan has been called many things by his detractors in the 25 years since he piloted a rattletrap airplane to Egypt in search of someone to talk peace with.

But time, and Mr. Nathan's charm and tenacity, have softened even his harshest critics, to the extent that he has become a national treasure, known to all as just plain Abie.

"Abie, you're number one," a man in jogging shorts calls out to him at Medina Circle, the park where he spends a couple of hours a day meeting admirers and bringing his hunger strike to public notice.

His latest fast, begun April 28, aims to pressure the government into abolishing a 1986 law which bars Israelis from meeting Mr. Arafat and other Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials.

He spent four months in prison for meeting with Mr. Arafat in 1988. Although threatened with a one-year prison term if he repeated the offence, he went to see the PLO leader again in 1990.

Despite the prospect of going back to jail, Mr. Nathan says he'd do it again. "I will continue to violate the law," he says. "We have to speak to the people that represent the Palestinians."

period. There is no other way." Mr. Nathan launched his exotic brand of diplomacy in 1966, when he flew solo to Egypt hoping to meet President Gamal Abdul Nasser.

Although Mr. Nasser turned him away, his boldness made him an Israeli folk hero.

But when he tried the stunt again several years later, Israeli authorities were less amused. They jailed him for 40 days for unauthorised travel to an enemy state.

His next move was to anchor a small ship off the Tel Aviv coast and broadcast pop music and peace messages. "The Voice of Peace" radio station is still going strong after 20 years.

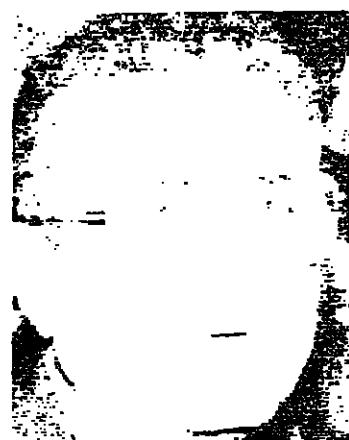
His first fast for peace went on for 15 days. The next two lasted 40 days each. The fourth, in 1978, lasted 45 days.

In 1979, Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty, and Mr. Nathan turned his attention to the Palestinians. He says he has travelled 12 times to meet with PLO officials.

The Israeli government regards the PLO as a "terrorist" organisation, unfit to play any negotiating role. Mr. Nathan replies: "all over the world people speak to the enemy to make peace. Even we spoke to the Germans."

At the hotel where he lives, as well as the Medina Circle, he receives a constant stream of well-wishers — writers, politicians, friends from the pre-crusade days when he owned a popular Tel Aviv restaurant.

One of his visitors was the speaker of parliament, Dov Shilansky. Mr. Shilansky firmly supports the ban on contacts with the



Abie Nathan

PLO, but feels duty-bound, as representative of an institution, to call on a man who, from the opposite direction, has himself become an institution.

A delegation of Israeli Arabs arrives at Medina Circle to express support. They are joined by a group of Jewish leftists from Tel Aviv University.

A short, impish-faced young man shows up, removes his Walkman earphones, and delivers a brief speech. He is in the army, and wants to thank Mr. Nathan for his peace efforts and for "The Voice of Peace," whose music he grew up with.

After he leaves, Mr. Nathan leans back in his chair. He is a short, bespectacled man with graying temples, whose speech still bears the lilt of his native India. In the second week of his water-only fast, he looks pale and tired. He said late last week that he had lost more than 6.75 kilograms so far.

"I see these boys endangering their lives, and here I am, I'm 64 years old, I've had a full, beautiful life, I have nothing to complain about... now how can I sit down in my room, watch TV, eat my favourite ice cream and yak about peace, and not risk my life?"

Iraqi army says Iranians and rebels killed 100 in Basra

By Walter Putnam
The Associated Press

OUTSIDE BASRA, Iraq — Iraqi officials Sunday displayed the bodies of about 100 men, blindfolded and with hands tied behind their backs, who they said were killed by Iranians and rebels in southern Iraq.

The parched, decomposing corpses, some partially eaten by wild dogs, lay in pits under the desert sun in the demilitarised zone declared at the end of the 1980-88 war with Iran.

Iraqi army officers who accompanied Western journalists to the site 30 kilometres northeast of Basra said the victims were civilians and Iraqi soldiers who had been taken prisoners by rebels against the Iraqi government.

"They said the insurgents, fleeing advancing troops, shot the prisoners before escaping across the Iranian border."

"The shot them in the back of the head," said one officer.

Iran has denied giving military aid to the insurgents in southern Iraq, although rebels have said they often use Iran as a haven from which to enter Iraq.

Shiite Muslim insurgents rebelled against the government in the wake of the Gulf war, but the unrest was largely crushed by loyalist troops.

The officer said the bodies were discovered on April 27, about three days after the slayings, "while we were inspecting, looking for the rebels."

Journalists carried to the scene by helicopter counted 51 bodies in one trench about two metres deep. Some lay in a pool of coagulated blood.

Many were lined side-by-side, face-down in the trench, some 800 metres from the Iranian border.

Reporters counted at least 36 other bodies in another pit, some 100 metres from the border.

although mines and war debris made it difficult to get close enough to see the whole pit.

Coils of barbed wire lay near the pit, and the desolate landscape was scarred with ruins from the Iraq-Iran war: Smashed bunkers and beams of earth, shell casings and tank treads, old sandbags.

A brisk wind blowing from the east sometimes shifted slightly, carrying the odor of decomposing flesh over the visitors.

The officers said the United Nations, which monitors the 1988 Iraq-Iran ceasefire, has been asked to investigate the incident and they said a U.N. team had been taken to the site.

One of the officers, Col. Othman Mohammad, said that Iraqis had entered Iraq to instigate the rebellion and fled when the army moved in.

He said that the rebels at first concentrated on killing government officials and soldiers, but later began killing civilians as well.

There have been persistent reports from Iran and Shiite opposition sources that the rebellion continues with nighttime hit-and-run attacks against the army.

Reporters Sunday saw no signs of fresh fighting in the small zone where they were taken.

The Iraqi News Agency, meanwhile, said that Iraqi state television displayed an Iranian captive "who confirmed Iran's involvement in sabotage operations in several Iraqi provinces."

It identified the man as Ali Vaghei of the Iranian Shiite shrine city of Qom.

The agency said the man confessed that he and several dozen comrades infiltrated into Iraq northeast of Baghdad and carried out attacks.

It said Iran supplied the group with tanks, rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons.

U.S. punishes Dutch firm for selling to Iraq

AMSTERDAM (R) — The United States has intensified trade sanctions against Delft Instruments NV of the Netherlands for violating U.S. export restrictions on sales to Iraq, the company said Monday.

The U.S. Defence Department has issued a directive banning U.S. government institutions from purchasing goods under new contracts from Delft which makes scientific, medical and defence equipment, Chairman Rinze Kingma said in a telephone interview.

"Delft and its subsidiary in the United States have been put on a list of firms that are not allowed to bid and deliver goods to U.S. federal institutions," he added.

"The sanction applies to future contracts and is to last for the period of a U.S. investigation against Delft," he said of the directive which reached him Saturday.

In February, Washington ordered U.S. firms to halt exports of virtually all supplies, Delft needs to build its high-technology equipment for at least six months.

A U.S. embassy spokesman could provide no immediate information on the new measures.

Delft has admitted its Belgian subsidiary supplied Iraq with sophisticated night vision equipment in violation of U.S. export controls just months before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Both U.S. and Dutch authorities are investigating whether Delft continued to supply Baghdad after a U.N. embargo on trade with Iraq.

Night vision equipment, an area where the U.S.-led forces believed they had an advantage, achieved prominence in the Gulf war during frequent clashes carried out under cover of darkness.

The night vision equipment supplied to Iraq is believed to have included hand-held laser range finders, tank periscopes, night vision goggles and unmanned surveillance equipment.

Mr. Kingma said the new U.S. sanctions could cost Delft up to 10 million guilders (\$5 million) in sales by the end of the year.

"Of course we are very unhappy about it because we don't know how long it will last," he said.

Delft announced in April that a 23.6 million guilder (\$12 million) net provision taken for its defence business as a consequence of the U.S. export restriction pushed it into the red last year.

The firm lost 8.9 million guilders (\$4.5 million) in 1990 on turnover of 433 million guilders (\$220 million) after a 1989 profit of 19.76 million guilders (\$10 million).

Gunmen kill Palestinian

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Gunmen in South Lebanon shot dead a Palestinian fighter and wounded another, security sources said Monday.

They said gunmen in a speeding car shot the two guerrillas of the Palestinian mainstream Fatah group at the entrance of the 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp near Sidon Sunday.

On Monday morning, gunmen fired a rocket-propelled grenade in a Sidon street where the offices of several Palestinian groups are located and by mistake hit a residential apartment. No-one was hurt.

Tension rose in Sidon Friday after the kidnapping of five Fatah guerrillas manning a checkpoint at 'Ain Al Hilweh, 40 km south of Beirut.

Freij praises Israeli mayor of Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Most Arab and Israeli leaders seem to need American or Soviet help to communicate. But Jerusalem's Israeli mayor Teddy Kollek and Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij showed that reconciliation only takes a simple handshake.

Mr. Freij, 70, made an unusual appearance on Israel's state television Sunday to congratulate Mr. Kollek on his approaching 80th birthday.

"I wish you a long life to continue to serve this special city of Jerusalem," said Mr. Freij, speaking in English on the Hebrew language show dedicated to Mr. Kollek.

Mr. Kollek, born May 27, 1911 and an immigrant from Vienna during the pre-state era, has been the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem since 1965 — two years before Israel occupied Arab Jerusalem.

Mr. Freij is the most veteran of mayors in the occupied West Bank. He has served his city of 40,000 since 1972.

Mr. Kollek's calls for moderation and attempts to overcome prejudices spawned by years of the Arab-Israeli conflict in this mixed Jewish-Arab city, have won him much praise around the world and made him one of Israel's most popular politicians.

But rarely have Arab leaders applauded Mr. Kollek publicly. Mr. Freij crossed this divide with his television appearance.

Mr. Freij brushed aside past Arab criticism of Mr. Kollek's administration of the city's Arab

sector which doesn't accept Israeli rule. "The projects which you have initiated and implemented in Jerusalem are really unique and you deserve to be congratulated by everybody," he said.

Mr. Freij also said he thought Arabs in Jerusalem should run in city council elections to obtain better services in their communities — without compromising Palestinian demands for statehood.

Most of Jerusalem's 140,000 Palestinians boycott city hall elections as a protest against Israeli rule. The city's Jewish population is 350,000.

"I believe that municipalities are not political institutions. I really would like to see Arabs run in elections... but it is up to the people of Jerusalem to decide," Mr. Freij said.

One of the first Palestinians ever to advocate dialogue with Israelis, Mr. Freij also appeals again for a peace that could also resolve the 41-month Palestinian uprising.

"We are destined by God to live together in this country forever, so why should we continue to fight each other and not find a practical peace solution?" he said.

Mr. Freij also suggested a middle East common market, on the European model, once peace is made. "What you describe would be paradise," Mr. Kollek replied. "I hope it will happen soon."

The conversation ended with a hearty handshake.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq to send pilgrims to Mecca

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq announced Sunday that it would send pilgrims on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca this year despite its Gulf war rift with Saudi Arabia. Information and Culture Minister Hamid Youssef Hummadi, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs would draw up the necessary travel regulations. The agency said a cabinet session, chaired by Prime Minister Saddam Hammadi, had entrusted the ministry with the task. INA gave no figures for the anticipated number of Iraqi pilgrims. Iraq challenged the Saudi custodianship of shrines during the Gulf war, saying their sanctity had been violated by the presence of non-Muslim forces in the kingdom.

Mine destroyed off Bahrain coast

MANAMA (R) — The Bahraini navy found and destroyed a floating mine off the Gulf island, an interior ministry spokesman said Monday. A British naval officer said Sunday Iraq was believed to have sown between 1,200 and 1,300 mines in the Gulf waters during the Gulf war which ended in February. Commodore Christopher Craig said foreign and Arab navies had destroyed 800 mines but about 400 others were still lurking in northern Gulf. "I have every confidence that mine clearance will be completed within a period of several weeks," he said.

Iraqi police arrest U.S. reporter

KUWAIT (R) — Iraqi police arrested an American journalist and his Kuwaiti interpreter in the demilitarised zone on the Kuwait-Iraq border, a U.N. spokesman said Monday. Majed Fayad, spokesman of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), said Associated Press reporter Mark Fritz and translator Salah Zamani were detained Sunday. The two were taken from the Iraqi border town of Safwan to the southeastern city of Basra, outside the demilitarised zone, he said. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in Kuwait that Mr. Fritz and Mr. Zamani were in good condition and had been sent back to Iraqi-policed Safwan. The ICRC said the Iraqis detained the two men for entering Iraq illegally.

Bahrain ruler meets British secretary

BAHRAIN (R) — British Environment Secretary Michael Heseltine met the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, Monday for talks on the environmental aftermath of the Gulf war. The Gulf News Agency quoted Mr. Heseltine, who arrived Sunday, as saying he wanted to see for himself the problems arising from the war and ways of solving them.

CORRECTION

Due to a proof reading error, the Jordan Times in a British Embassy obituary yesterday, misprinted the name of the late Adib Shibly, who passed away at age 88. The newspaper apologises for the error and expresses its condolences to his family.

Kuwait: No rift over Gulf security

CAIRO (R) — Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah Monday dismissed reports of a dispute among Gulf Arab states over their post-Gulf war security plans.

"It is not true. There are no differences," Sheikh Salem said, responding to a question on whether the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) disagreed on regional security.

Cairo's semi-official daily Al-Ahram Sunday quoted U.S. media reports that Kuwait and Bahrain were in disagreement with other GCC members over future security. Both countries favoured U.S. rather than Arab protection, Al-Ahram reported.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Sheikh Salem refused to answer a question about reported differences between Egypt and Gulf states over who should provide security in the wake of the Gulf war.

In a surprise move, Mr. Mubarak announced on Wednesday that he had ordered the withdrawal of some 35,000 Egyptian troops who took part in the U.S.-led Operation Desert Storm in which allied

forces recaptured Kuwait from the Iraqi army.

Diplomats said Mr. Mubarak's decision followed a dispute with the Gulf states over who should protect the oil-rich region in the future. They said Cairo was angry with Kuwait for opting for Western rather than Arab protection.

Cairo and Damascus signed an agreement in March with the six states — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman — which envisaged Egyptian and Syrian troops being stationed in the Gulf as a nucleus of a peacekeeping force.

Under the accord, the six countries would extend development aid to help the weaker Egyptian and Syrian economies.

Sheikh Salem, who is also deputy prime minister, said he delivered a message to Mr. Mubarak from Kuwait's ruler Sheikh Jaber al Ahmad Al Sabah "stressing strong Kuwaiti-Egyptian ties."

"The Kuwaiti people will never forget the role played by Egypt, its leadership and army in liberating Kuwait. This has become part of Kuwait's history," Sheikh Salem said.

He is in Cairo to take part in a meeting of Arab ministers on Wednesday which is due to elect Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid as the new Arab League secretary general.

Mr. Abdul Meguid will replace Chadli Klibi, a Tunisian, who resigned during the Gulf crisis when the league failed to heal Arab divisions.

Kaddoumi to meet Bouez in Cairo
TUNIS (R) — Farouk Kaddoumi, chief of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) political department, will confer later this month in Cairo with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, a PLO spokesman said on Monday.

They will meet during the Arab League ministerial conference due to open in the Egyptian capital on May 15.

The meeting was arranged after Lebanese mediator Mohsen Ibrahim held a series of contacts with Arab leaders, including the PLO, to discuss the disarmament of Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon.

Mystery shrouds Saudis' Jerusalem visit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A top Saudi Arabian official has booked a hotel room in Arab Jerusalem for later this week for what would be an unprecedented Saudi visit to the Israeli-occupied territories, Israel Television reported Sunday.

The hotel manager said the reservation could be a mistake and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's senior aide Avi Pazner claimed no knowledge of such plans.

Yet the mysterious report coincided with other progress towards Middle East peace talks made during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's current shuttle in the region.

Saudi Arabia and five other Gulf states said this weekend they

had agreed to break a longstanding boycott of the Jewish state and sit at a peace conference — albeit as observers.

The television identified the Saudi official expected in occupied Jerusalem Wednesday as a brother of Saudi King Fahd, Prince Turki Ben Abdul Aziz, who is also a former Saudi deputy defence minister.

It said Prince Turki would be on a private visit but would likely discuss economic aid programmes with Palestinian leaders. Mr. Baker is expected to meet Israeli leaders on the same day.

The television quoted only unidentified sources in the occupied territories and added that the Saudi prince would be travelling with a representative of the

Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank.

The report was unmentioned by later radio broadcasts and Shamir aide Pazner said only "I don't know anything about it."

Awmi Inshawat, manager of the Seven Arches Hotel in Arab Jerusalem, confirmed there was a booking for Wednesday for Prince Turki. But he said the reservations were ordered two weeks ago by an "unidentified individual" and never confirmed.

Mr. Inshawat added that the hotel has in the past received mistaken bookings.

Saudi Arabia has been technically at war with Israel since its birth in 1948, and a visit by any of its leaders would be unprecedented.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Raisons Laveurs
18:30 Scène Caudie
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:00 Doc. "Cosmos"
22:00 News in English
22:30 French feature film: "Gloria"

PRAYER TIMES

04:16 Fajr
05:42 Sunrise (Sunrise) Duha
12:35 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:23 Maghreb
20:49 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of ... Church, Sweith
Tel. 810740.
Assembly of God Church, Tel.
632785, 685226.
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
657440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623383. Tel.
628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
772661.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assman International Church Tel.
685226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and some clouds will appear at different altitudes. Winds will be northeasterly moderate becoming at times northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour 748364
Dr. Mohammad Al Awad 741391
Dr. Jamal Abu Baker 746426
Dr. Nuri Warden 814385
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 783336
Al Asala pharmacy 637035
Neiroush pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:

Min./max. temp.
Amman 18 / 31
Aqaba 24 / 40
Deserts 19 / 34

Jordan Valley

21 / 37
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 31, Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Dr. Hanna Mansour 748364
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Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:

Min./max. temp.
Amman 18 / 31
Aqaba 24 / 40
Deserts 19 / 34

Dr. Lutfi Al Shalabi

(-) Al Shalabi pharmacy (278625)

ZARQA:

Dr. Mubashir Hijawi (661101)
Khalaf pharmacy (985417)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 391228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 608800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 897467
Complaints 787111

Telephone Information

(Directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 68-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 68-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn 642412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhotra, J. Amman 664171/4
Palestine, Shamsani 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mustashir Hospital 687227/9

The Islamic, Abdali

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mubajreen 777101/2
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marha 891611/75
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50
Amal Hospital 664155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Great Catholic Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Great Catholic Hospital (02)272727
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

Home News

Queen honours charity volunteer workers

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Monday attended a ceremony to honour members of the community involved in charity work, especially those supervising a charity fund raising contributions for the needy.

At a ceremony held at the Sukaina School for Girls, the Queen distributed meritorious certificates to a group representing Ministry of Education schools whose staff and students have been active in raising contributions in the 1990/1991 scholastic year.

Addressing the ceremony was Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, executive president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), which is taking charge of this fund.

This special charity fund has been financing two programmes, one of which involves distribution of aid to needy students at the rate of JD 300 annually to cover

their university fees. The sum will be retrieved when the student has graduated and began to earn a living, Dr. Khatib said.

"Since 1986 this programme benefited 925 students altogether receiving JD 800,000, Dr. Khatib said.

"A total of 325 of student beneficiaries have already graduated and are repaying the sums in instalments Dr. Khatib added.

The second programme, Dr. Khatib said, concerns direct grants in lump sums to needy students. In the past year, 1,530 male and female students benefited from this programme and not have to repay the loans, said Dr. Khatib.

The Ministry of Education is helping GUVS to carry out the charity fund programme in 960 schools around the country. According to Dr. Khatib, in 1990 a total of JD 30,000 was collected.



Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh Monday tells a press conference about his policy of opening pastures in woods for goats, a decision that has stirred debate in the country (Petra photo)

Jordan seeks to reopen its embassy in Kuwait

By P.V. Vivekanad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is awaiting Kuwaiti response to a formal memorandum informing it of the Kingdom's desire to reopen its embassy in the emirate after a seven-month closure in the wake of the Gulf crisis, informed sources said Monday.

"Jordan has formally informed the Kuwaiti government of its desire to reopen its diplomatic mission, which was temporarily closed during the crisis," said one of the sources. "The government has not received a reply yet from the Kuwaiti authorities," added the source, who declined to be identified.

Kuwaiti embassy officials here refused to make any formal comment on the status of the Jordanian request. But a Kuwaiti source said in exchange for anonymity that the issue is under study by the government and in view of other priorities it could be in the back burner.

A few embassies have reopened in Kuwait but diplomats who regularly visit the emirate said the situation was still discouraging for them to set up residence there at least for the time being.

"Water and power supplies are still erratic, there are limited channels of communication and diplomatic work gets bogged down," said an Asian diplomat stationed in Amman.

"Things are improving, but the heavy smoke and air pollution are still unbearable," he told the Jordan Times. "One study has indicated that 24 hours of stay in Kuwait are tantamount to smoking 250 cigarettes a day," he said, referring to the smoke billowing from oil wells set ablaze during the Gulf war.

Jordan, along with dozens of other countries, closed its mission in Kuwait in September, following an Iraqi decree which ordered all countries to terminate their diplomatic presence in the emirate, which Baghdad proclaimed as its 19th province after taking it over in August.

"When Jordan closed the mission, it also informed the Kuwaiti government (in exile in Saudi Arabia following the Iraqi invasion) that the closure was limited to the premises and it did in no way signal a shift in Jordan's principled position," said a senior official.

By inference, the official explained, Jordan made it clear that it did not recognise the Iraqi claim that Kuwait was one of its provinces and that the Kingdom remained firm on its stand that the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute should be resolved through negotiations and

Iraq's occupation of the emirate should end.

Dozens of embassies closed their doors in Kuwait in line with the Iraqi order. Jordanian Ambassador Nabil Talhoumi and other Jordanian diplomats as well as officials from concerned ministries stationed in Kuwait returned home in September.

"Jordan's case is not an isolated one," another official pointed out. "There are many countries which were not part of the American-led coalition (against Iraq) now seeking to reopen their missions in Kuwait," he said.

The reopening of the Jordanian mission is of particular importance to the government in view of the presence of over 150,000 Jordanian passport-holders in Kuwait and reports that many of them were being persecuted for what the Kuwaitis perceived as their support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

The Kuwaiti government has formally denied the reports, but senior Kuwaiti officials have conceded that there were incidents of detention, torture and killings of Jordanians, Palestinians, Sudanese and some other whose countries, while not necessarily supporting the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, opposed the American-led war against Iraq.

Alawneh defends his agricultural policies, assails previous approaches

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh Monday defended his ministry's decision to open the forest areas for goats and sheep to graze, and said "we want the sheep to eat from the trees which can rejuvenate themselves in the process, and by so doing we are allowing the sheep to prune the trees for us."

"In addition, the droppings of the sheep and goats benefit the forest and the animals take care of eliminating the dry weeds which cause many forest fires in Jordan," the minister said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He criticised the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO), which until recently was the sole importer of agricultural products and authorised to market the crops abroad, and said that this company had reported losses from imports of apples while the past few months, during which various merchants were allowed to import apples, proved that the process was profitable.

The minister said that the ministry was allowing merchants to import apples from Turkey and Syria because the two countries had quoted price rates less than other countries, like Iran, Lebanon and Switzerland.

In reply to a question about his absence from a meeting that was due to be held Friday in the central Ghor region along with the ministers of industry and trade and water and irrigation, Mr. Alawneh said that although he had agreed in principle to attend, the other ministers were not available and had previously arranged commitments which prevented them from coming to the meeting.

"We informed the organisers that they should put off the date of the meeting, but there seemed to have been some misunderstanding over the whole issue," Mr. Alawneh said.

The meeting Friday was dedicated to discussing the causes of the destruction of crops in the valley, mainly due to irrigation with polluted water from the King Talal dam. The farmers, who had threatened to sue the government for their losses estimated at JD 60 million, staged a protest march for the ministers' failure to attend and discuss their problems.

Mr. Alawneh told Petra that the government was keen on helping the farmers by different means, but he said that the problem did not lie with the water of the King Talal dam but with the soil itself, which, he said, has become saturated with harmful chemicals and salts.

Mr. Alawneh said in his statement that he planned to move the ministry to another location because many of the departments affiliated to the ministry have been distributed to various regions.

He said that the ministry, which now pays JD 148,000 in annual rent, will move to a new area and initial search revealed the presence of buildings with fewer offices that can be let for JD 14,000 to JD 20,000 a year, but he gave no other details.

Mr. Alawneh also criticised previous ministries for neglecting control over the agricultural nurseries which produce saplings for agriculture.

He said he had discovered that the tomato nurseries, for instance, were all affected by diseases and that there was no organised plan for the production of fruit saplings.

Police: 83% of Amman cases solved

Gulf crisis contributed to sharp rise in crime

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 2,699 robberies and thefts occurred within the Amman Governorate in the last half of 1990 and the first four months of 1991, mainly in the western and northern Amman districts, but the public Security Department (PSD) has succeeded in discovering 83 per cent of these crimes bringing the culprits to justice, according to Brigadier Ghaleb Zoubi, director of the Amman Police Department.

Brig. Zoubi told a press conference that the sharp rise in the number of robberies, compared to previous years, was due mainly to the negative effects of the Gulf crisis, the increase in the number of evacuees and returnees, and the fact that police departments were involved in matters related to evacuees.

The police have not only apprehended the criminals, it also retrieved the stolen property, and held an exhibition of stolen items that were inspected by the press.

Brig. Zoubi said 758 people were involved in robberies, most of whom were young or unemployed, with little education.

The group also included some non-Jordanian citizens from Arab

and foreign countries.

In addition to cash, the robbers stole electrical domestic appliances, jewellery, gold pieces, wrist watches, garments, cameras and other items which were displayed for the journalists who also examined the various tools used by the robbers in their crimes.

On May 10, the PSD announced that 1990 witnessed the occurrence of 21,885 crimes, registering a 8.7 per cent increase over the 1989 figures.

The PSD report cited a recent report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on socio-economic conditions in Jordan, and said that nearly 33 per cent of the population was living under the poverty line which was to blame for the increase in crime rates.

Brig. Zoubi said that discovered robberies and other crimes in Jordan was performed at one of the highest rates in the world, and predicted that the rate was expected to fall gradually thanks to sound security procedures and close cooperation between the police and the members of the public.

Travel agencies are open for pilgrimage registration

AMMAN (J.T.) — Muslims wishing to perform this year's pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina can register their names with 18 local travel agencies from now and until May 26, according to an announcement by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani.

"Travellers by land can register with 16 land transport companies while those wishing to go by air can register with Royal Tours and Nawas Travel Offices in Amman," said the minister in his statement at a press conference during which he explained various matters related to this year's pilgrimage.

Dr. Kilani said that the Saudi awqaf minister had assured him that Jordanian pilgrims would be treated well and an agreement concluded by the ministries of awqaf and Islamic affairs in the two countries covered guarantees for the transportation and housing of pilgrims during the pilgrimage season.

Referring to the transport companies which were selected to facilitate the transportation of pilgrims, the minister said, they all have had long experience in handling transportation to and from Mecca, but their buses will all undergo testing at the Licensing Department to ensure that the vehicles are in good order.

Dr. Kilani said that a traveller by land would have to pay JD 353 for travelling in air-conditioned buses, and JD 343 for buses without air-conditioning; this covers the cost of lodging as well. Those travelling by air should pay JD 285.75 for lodging alone in addition to the air fare.

The minister said that pilgrims from the occupied territories could register with the awqaf departments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said that each pilgrim should have a valid passport, and a certificate of vaccination against meningitis issued 10 days before the time of departure for Saudi Arabia.

Hotel agency says high profits covered losses for 1986-1989

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least some of the five star hotels in Jordan made real profits from the Gulf crisis at a time when many hotels in Amman and Aqaba reported loss of business and staff layoffs.

In the annual general meeting of hotels and travel and tourism agency, the statement of accounts revealed a high profit of JD 1,923,586.

According to statements from the annual general meeting, which was chaired earlier this month, by Ziad Annab and attended by the board of directors and shareholders, the high profit meant that the agency was able to dissolve the accumulated losses of JD 1,682,845 that it had throughout the years 1986-1989.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily quoted the meeting as announcing that "the shareholders would distribute the net yields at 10 per cent of the capital which stands at JD 1,246,965."

One of the hotels which registered profits is the Jordan's Intercontinental Hotel. It made a significant leap because of its services provided to the foreign network agencies during the nine months of the Gulf crisis and war. The hotel was able to achieve this

largely because "we were prepared before the media arrived," said Majed Khalil, general manager of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

"We had a newly moved business centre with six secretaries providing services. We also had a press office which was increased to six rooms from one twenty years ago to accommodate all the facilities and support the media people," Mr. Khalil told the Jordan Times.

The general manager explained that the hotel had all these facilities prepared for the business season at the end of the year. "Because of that in July we added 50 telephone lines. When the crisis erupted, we had 140 telephone lines and 30 facsimile lines instead of six. We were well prepared," Mr. Khalil remarked.

Aside from benefiting financially, Mr. Khalil maintains that the hotel had gained a lot of respect on the global scale. "Also," he added with a smile of satisfaction, "now people know where Jordan is."

There were about 400 people staying at a time, 35 different nationalities and over 20 different networks.

"With the profit we made we aim at keeping up the standard

and keep working towards the internationally accepted standard," Mr. Khalil said. The hotel also has specific projects which it is undertaking, but Mr. Khalil preferred not to mention their nature. "This year, however, we have spent \$40,000 on safety, such as smoke detectors," he said. The main restaurant will also be renovated soon, he added.

Unlike other businesses which have had to lay off some of the employees, the hotel, with 99 per cent of the staff Jordanian, did not. "We stopped employment on Aug. 5. We did not have replacements and did not give the employees holidays. That way the staff remained," Mr. Khalil affirmed.

While apparently the hotel is quiet, Mr. Khalil says that a lot of work is being done. "Rooms were so much used for nine months, we have a lot of upgrading, painting and renovating to do," Mr. Khalil said. He added that "this is the time where we do the planning for the next year to bring in business into the country and to work with hotels regionally and globally."

As a guest at the hotel recently wrote, "every war has its hotel." It seems the Intercontinental has been added to the list.

Muta University faces financial deficit

KARAK (Petra) — Muta University President Awad Khleifat Sunday complained that the university was facing a financial deficit which was bound to negatively affect its programmes.

Addressing a press gathering, Dr. Khleifat said that he was thankful for the government for coming to the help of the university by providing financial aid with which it can carry on essential projects within the civilian wing.

The university has a military and a civilian wing, with the military wing turning out officers to be employed by the Public Security Department or the Armed Forces.

This year Muta University created five faculties of 24 academic branches and set up two deanships for scientific research and higher studies and students affairs, Dr. Khleifat said in the course of outlining the university's development.

He said the government had provided funds to help the university create sports halls, laboratories and other utilities and noted with satisfaction the ongoing cooperation between the university and local companies operating in the southern regions of Jordan.

Following the meeting the journalists were taken on a tour of the various wings and departments.

New type of children milk is available in pharmacies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health announced Monday that it has distributed children milk to a number of pharmacies in Amman, Zarqa, Karak, Jerash, Baqa and Salt to replace a former type of powdered milk that was considered unfit for human consumption by the ministry.

Nayef Hamarneh, director of the ministry's Pharmacy Department, said further quantities of children milk would be distributed to the pharmacies in the coming few days in various governorates. He estimated that a total of 20,000 tins of powdered milk will be distributed in the

process.

The Health Ministry stepped in following widespread complaints over lack of children milk in pharmacies, most of which used to be imported from European countries, including England and Ireland.

According to Mr. Hamarneh, a new shipment of children milk is expected to arrive in Jordan over the coming few weeks and will be distributed under the ministry's supervision.

Mr. Hamarneh said that a decision was taken to stop importing milk from Ireland and England.

Although the World Health Organisation (WHO) ruled out the possibility of the disease being transmitted to children through the animals' milk, a Health Ministry committee decided to halt all milk imports from Ireland and England, said Mr. Hamarneh.

Fewer public tenders in 1990

AMMAN (Petra) — Government departments last year floated tenders for various public projects worth JD 58 million, down from JD 97.5 million in 1989, according to an annual report by the Department of Tenders.

Minister of Public Works Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, in remarks about the decline in the volume of tenders, attributed the situation to the difficult economic circumstances in Jordan in 1990.

Mr. Rawabdeh said that the Ministry of Public Works and Housing had been exerting strenuous efforts to create an opportune climate in order to stimulate the construction sector in Jordan, within its limited means.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION

- ★ Art exhibition by Nazir Ismail at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monotypes, by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Duweik at Abdul Hameed Shomou Foundation (10 a.m. — 5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of Arab calligraphy at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artists Ziad Al Momeni, Jawad Hatameh and Sultana Al Kofshi at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and handicrafts by Jordanian artist Jamilah Saleh at Muta University.
- ★ Exhibition of embroideries, knit wear, artificial flowers and wood work by deaf students at Queen Alia Centre for the Hearing Impaired, Zarqa.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Architecture — A Thematic Approach" by Mr. Akram Abu Hamdan at Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Video film entitled "Mansfield Park" (part II) at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

مستحضرات التجميل العالمية

إستي لاور

ESTÉE LAUDER

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The View from Fourth Circle

Thank heaven for little girls (in shorts)

By Rami G. Khouri

THE controversy over the minister of education's decision banning men from attending end-of-year private school ceremonies in which schoolgirls wear their sports shorts or exercise clothes promises to be one of those apparently innocuous events around which empires — well, if not empires, then at least fiefs and ministries — rise or fall, and the careers of men are made or broken. Initial reaction among many parents I have spoken to has been strong, and both private and public debate on the question is widespread, as it should be — not because of the issue itself, but for what it speaks about Jordan today, and where we're heading as a country, and perhaps even as an Arab nation.

The matter really breaks down into two questions. The first one is technical, and relatively easy, comprising valid points such as: does the majority of Jordanians favour this rule? Does a majority of Jordanians find it appropriate and in keeping with the land's Islamic heritage and tradition of personal freedom of choice? If so, is it appropriate to impose it on all schools and parents, or should people have a choice about the practices in their schools? Can a private school allow young girls in shorts or young boys in Mickey Mouse hats to stand on their heads and eat five kilograms of doughnuts while singing the national anthem and carrying pictures of the Arab World in front of their fathers, if this is not done at a government school with the formal, official blessing of the government and therefore in the name of the people? Can fathers watch their girls play tennis in shorts in their private clubs, at a hotel in Aqaba, or at the Olympic Games where the girls may represent Jordan? Is it logical to ban fathers from watching their girls in sports shorts while we watch far more provocative things on television? Does the minister of education have the right to decree such a rule on his own, or should it be formally approved by a majority of the cabinet? Is it a minister's job to implement the policy of the government — a government named by His Majesty King Hussein, accountable to and approved by the people through their representatives in Parliament — or does a minister have sufficient latitude to implement such controversial decisions unilaterally? Can the ministers of agriculture and supply order a ban on growing or importing seedless grapes because they are an alien western intrusion into our earth and digestive systems?

You see what I mean? There are many interesting ramifications to this ruling which can and should be discussed. I do not wish to support or oppose the ruling, because that is irrelevant to the point I make. The key issue is that this is a controversial ruling which was unilaterally made by the minister of education, whom I am sure, is an honourable and well meaning fellow. I do not know him, have never met him, and have no reason to support or oppose him. His person, like my views, is not the issue. Rather, the issue is: how does a newly democratising country such as Jordan make controversial decisions such as this, which many people feel may be the tip of the iceberg of the second question related to this matter?

That second, more important, question is not technical, but political, and highly charged. It is about the exercise of raw political power, in a society making the transition from public political scepticism to political pluralism. As people start to feel the impact on their own family lives of administrative decisions made by Islamic fundamentalist ministers who were elected to parliament in 1989, the reality of social and political change starts to sink in.

Many people ask themselves: will we start with no fathers watching girls in shorts, then move to segregated classes, and then to mandatory dress codes, import restrictions, and so on and so forth until we have the full physical manifestations of absolute Islamic rule? Do we make political history by making the

transition from autocracy to democracy to theocracy in one smooth motion, around the turn of the decade of the 1980s/90s?

This, of course, is the heart of the issue, and it also comprises some of the technical elements in the first question above: how many Jordanians want an Islamic state, with mandatory dress codes, non-usurious banking and other such attributes? An Islamic state may be just the thing we need to counter the regression and confusion of the recent past, the mismanagement and waste, the arrogance of the bureaucracy, the humiliation of Israel, the manipulation and exploitation of the superpowers, and the fragmentation of the larger Arab/Islamic family.

Does the fact that Muslim Brotherhood candidates and other independent Islamists won 40 per cent of the seats of the Lower House of Parliament in the 1989 elections mean that ministers of this political tendency have the authority unilaterally to start applying regulations which reflect their thinking? Had Arab nationalists won 40 per cent, would they have the right to wipe out the border with Syria and Saudi Arabia (good idea, actually, but let's wait for the next election...)? Had tribal candidates won 40 per cent of the seats, would they have the right to cancel civil law and return to adjudication of disputes through tribal law (not a bad idea, either, given the sad state of our legal system...)? Had communists won 40 per cent of the seats, could they unilaterally unisonise the falafel and shawarma makers?

But even this is not the whole question. Deeper down, the real issue is not about men, but rather about God: not about politics, but about heaven and earth. Islam was politicised in Jordan and many other Arab/Islamic countries because it was the only means to express personal social and political sentiments, and/or to criticise, oppose, challenge or question the government of the day, back when the governments of the day were the only political game in town. Islamist candidates in Jordan and many other countries rode to power on a mandate from the voters and a mantle from heaven, in the same manner that religiously oriented candidates also rose to political power in the United States, Israel, India, Haiti and many other non-Islamic countries around the world. The politicisation of Islam is also similar to the political role which the Christian church played in the revolutions and political evolutions of Eastern Europe, the Philippines, South Korea, Central America, South Africa and many other countries. When men give up on the political order, they turn to God. It's an ancient and trusted habit in this part of the world, where political order and the formal worship of God were both born and raised to maturity.

There is nothing unusual about the use of religion as a political appeal to respond to the grievances and aspirations of the people. The question is, though, when religiously-oriented candidates assume some or all power, do they have a mandate to radically transform society into their image of heaven? Or, as happened in South Africa and Eastern Europe, does religion resume its predominantly personal/spiritual role once political change has been effected and a new group of more popularly-supported civil leaders takes power? Notice, for example, how Bishop Desmond Tutu now goes about his priestly business with little public fanfare, since Nelson Mandela is back running the political quest for dignity and freedom. Is such a distinction appropriate in the realm of Islam, as it is in other religions, or do the people of Jordan truly want an Islamic state in which there is no distinction between the strictures of spirituality and the strictures of statehood?

I have generally seen the Islamic fundamentalist movement throughout the Arab World as a necessary and appropriate corrective to the excesses of the last several decades of pan-Arab national failure and regression. As a Christian Arab male (women, and other minority/ethnic/religious groups in the Arab

World may have a different opinion), I have no fears of an authentically Islamic state as such, because the Islamic tradition of tolerance for minority religions strikes me as practical and positive. It is also likely that in the long run, when the modern Arab countries are truly democratic, pluralistic, integrated and equitable, religion will have a means of political mobilisation and greater than its role as a means of political mobilisation and challenge. At that point, pan-Arab nationalism will emerge as the stronger force that cements our many little countries into the more equitable and productive Arab national home we aspire to live in.

The question here is not whether Islamic-style decisions should be supported or not. The question is: who makes such decisions, and how are they to be made in a newly democratising, neo-pluralistic society? Democracy and pluralism are very dear to us in Jordan today, but they are still young, fragile and vulnerable. They must be strengthened and deepened by an ability of the people to openly discuss even the most sensitive issues, including corruption, human rights, women's status, religion, politics, and any administrative decision by public officials which may have an impact on the future of our children and our country.

The fact that up until now there has been a general shyness about openly questioning or even debating positions taken by Muslim Brotherhood-style candidates has been one of the Achilles Heels of our young pluralistic democracy (the absence of political parties and alternative media are others, but these should be rectified soon). But this constraining factor should be well behind us now, if we are serious about pluralism and democratic change. Those who rose to power on the back of attractive and genuine slogans of piety and morality are now players in a political process — horse-traders, deal-makers, parliamentary coalition-makers, and ministerial aspirants. Having spoken for God in their successful march to political power and incumbency, they are now accountable to both God and to the people, vis-a-vis the challenge of building a humane and durable country. The real world knocks. The people want answers, programmes, progress, real improvement in their lives. Is hiding the legs of little girls the answer? It may be. I don't presume to know. But I do know that we shall never find out the true answer, or the true feelings of the people of this country, unless we engage in the marketplace of political dialogue, and of intellectual battle. It is a grizzly, demanding but exhilarating business. And it will largely determine the future prospects of those little girls running around in shorts this month singing the national anthem.

The grassroots debate about the education minister's decision may be an important test case of how our democracy will develop — whether it will flourish into a genuinely pluralistic system in which public debate and majority vote determine public policy, or whether calls to higher forces and older fears will effectively quash the transition to authentic pluralism. It is another good opportunity — remember the ban on male hairdressers cutting women's hair — to galvanize and fortify the nascent process of public discussion and honest debate. God doesn't complicate the issue; He simply makes it that much more interesting, and important.

This is not a controversy about shorts and girls' legs. It is about power, public authority, national identity, and the future of the Arab World — which is why the single most important thing that should happen in the immediate future in Jordan is to make sure that politicians, parliamentarians, the press, university professors, school teachers, office workers, little boys on bicycles, little girls in shorts, falafel makers, shawarma fans and fathers and mothers everywhere should come out of the shadows and start getting involved in the excitement and responsibility of democratic life.

Too much is at stake

DURING U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's second visit to Jordan today, the Jordanian leadership is expected to hear from him his views and analysis of where current peace efforts stand. The exchange should be frank and positive since both countries are genuinely interested in starting a meaningful peace process that would produce results. But this does not mean that Jordan will refrain from telling Mr. Baker our honest opinions on how the process should get off the ground.

As the news had it yesterday, the secretary of state and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh were both confident that many areas of agreement have actually been established to hold the proposed peace conference. True, contentious points of disagreements remain. But the overall picture is that the parties concerned could close the gap if they are sincerely interested in giving peace a chance.

If, for one reason or another, the positions of Syria and Israel remain unbridgeable — at least insofar as the two superpowers are concerned — it would have been only wise for Messrs. Baker and Bessmertnykh to have reached some form of understanding in their meetings in Cairo yesterday over what to do next. Either through coming up with a joint plan or agreeing on a united course of action, in case peace efforts reached a dead end, can the two superpowers exert any kind of pressure to get things going. Pressure may not be a nice word, but it may prove to be the only tactic that will work.

By this evening, Mr. Baker will have heard enough from the Arab side to convince him of the flexibility of the Arab position. He will have heard in the three Arab capitals he visited, including Damascus, that if Israel were really interested and ready to return occupied territories there would be sufficient room to compromise on the shape and duration of the peace conference. But, on the other hand, if Mr. Shamir insisted on ceding not an inch from the "land of Israel" there would be no point for the Arabs to accept the absence of the U.N. from such a conference or to agree to holding it on a one-time basis.

Mr. Baker will travel to Israel fully aware that the Shamir government will have to be more forthcoming and ready for peace than the case has been so far if progress is to be made. By the same token, he will not allow himself to quit if the Israelis continue to say no to everything. The secretary of state should — and hopefully does — have the answer to those who want to block the path to peace. Hence the importance and vital necessity of American-Soviet understanding on what has to be done if gentle persuasion comes to naught.

At this critical phase, we cannot afford to be either optimistic or pessimistic on peace prospects. We would like to think, however, that too much is at stake for this opportunity to be allowed to slip from our grasp.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SO far a compromise solution to the Middle East issue as advocated by the U.S. secretary of state is not clear to the Arabs, nor is it clear whether Washington is determined to apply the international legitimacy in dealing with this chronic problem, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Coinciding with Baker's tour, the Israeli leaders have announced their total rejection of the exchange of peace for land, and refusal to abandon the so-called greater Israel dream in this region, the paper noted. Two points which give clear signs of trouble are: Israel's celebrations of the anniversary of the annexation of east Jerusalem when Baker was holding talks in Damascus, and the cancellation of a joint press conference between the Syrian and American foreign ministers at the end of the Damascus meetings, said the paper. We are afraid that the so-called American compromise solution is way around the international legitimacy and the U.N. Security Council resolutions, noted the paper. If the Americans intend to impose such solution on the Arabs away from the international legitimacy, the peace process will be in trouble because Washington would be deviating from the sound course leading to a just peace, the paper added. Israel's manoeuvres and America's failure to take action, said the paper, can by no means contribute towards the achievement of genuine peace.

A columnist in Al Dastour daily calls on the government to arrange for bakeries and industrial businesses to give on-the-job training to Jordanians who could take over from non-Jordanian workers. Mohammad Daoud says that this process is adopted by all industrialised nations which take extra care to see that no line of production can be interrupted no matter what happens in the labour market. The writer notes that the recent deal reached between the Labour Ministry and the bakeries is a temporary one; and problems concerning the employment of non-Jordanians are bound to crop up again. For this reason, he says, the government must see to it that bakeries and other businesses give training to Jordanians while the non-Jordanian workers are still employed, so that the gradual layoff of the non-Jordanians would not affect production or interrupt any business. The writer blames owners of bakeries for exploiting the non-Jordanian workers, forcing them to work for 12 hours or more, for refusing to pay reasonable wages to Jordanians and for avoiding payment of fees for work permits. The writer also calls on the government to fix minimum wages for workers in bakeries and thin working hours in order to encourage the local workers to take over from the non-Jordanians and so help reduce the problem of unemployment in the country.

ARTICLE 19 is a London-based organisation that monitors the freedom of the press world-wide.

ALTHOUGH the press has never been wholly unfettered in Sudan the three year period before the June 1989 military coup was a time of relative freedom. Some 40 newspapers, representing a wide range of political opinions, were regularly published, and the total circulation of leading dailies was in the region of 170,000 copies. Journalism was an optimistic profession, attracting well-qualified people, and the foreign press was permitted a degree of access to the country, even in the war-torn south. Immediately following the coup, the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation (RCC), led by Lieutenant General Omar Al Bashir, began systematically to censor the press, harass, ban and detain journalists and introduce new measures to silence any views other than those of the RCC government.

Since the military takeover, newspapers have been banned by Constitutional Decree 2 issued on June 30, 1989, leaving Al Quwat Al Musallaha, a political weekly published by the Armed Forces Moral Guidance Division, as the only newspaper allowed to publish. Between August 1989 and May 1990 the RCC launched four new publications all under the direct control of the National Islamic Front (NIF), an organisation which is widely known to have close political links with the military.

Sudanow, the state-owned English-language political monthly magazine, was suspended but began to publish again in October 1989, greatly reduced in size and content due to political pressure and the emigration of qualified staff. Circulation of the magazine, estimated in the early 1980s to be approximately 15,000, today has dwindled to nearer 3,000. In May 1990 the RCC Political Committee Chairman issued a directive that newspapers containing political comment could not be published without the authorisation of the RCC.

In August 1989, several meetings between journalists, senior editors, academics and

the government, aimed at keeping the media in line with the RCC policies, culminated in a national conference on the press in February 1990 which endorsed the RCC media strategy despite strong calls for a free press. Increasingly protests began in earnest early in 1990 and included sit-ins and hunger strikes at the university, and the establishment of a clandestine press. The government retaliated by banning and restricting the activities of professional organisations and trade unions, as well as by harassing and detaining more journalists. The Information Committee Chairman of the RCC specifically directed that the government media to prevent people from "drifting back to the paganism of the democratic period."

"The information committee of the Revolutionary Command Council directed the government media to prevent people from 'drifting back to the paganism of the democratic period.'"

Between June 1989 and July 1990 editors, publishers and journalists were arbitrarily detained without charge: 31 media workers were arrested, of whom 10 have since been released and, of these, three claim to have been tortured. It is not known how many of those still in prison have been subjected to torture. Al Fateh Al Mardil, a journalist and a member of the Sudanese Journalists' Union Executive Committee was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment for possessing printing equipment and distributing anti-government leaflets. He is the only journalist known to have been sentenced by the RCC.

Even those who worked on government papers were affected. More than 100 media workers were dismissed from

the Ministry of Culture and Information, the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) and Sudan National Radio and Television Corporation. The dismissals, carried out under RCC decree, were regarded by the authorities as a vital measure to rid the media of "renegades, hirelings and fifth columnists." A journalist on Al Sudan Al Hadith was, for example, abruptly dismissed for having written an article arguing that the Deputy Commissioner of Khartoum province should not have ordered the removal of drinking water coolers from a street in the capital. In March 1990, nine sports newspapers were banned for allegedly violating the code of ethics issued by the RCC Information Committee. In May 1990 four privately-owned, non-political newspapers were banned without any official explanation.

The government also employs many indirect methods in its attempt to muzzle the press. As a result of the government monopoly on the supply of newsprint, privately-owned publications are faced with artificially high prices for newsprint, heavy customs duties and foreign exchange difficulties. Since the military takeover new measures have been taken to tighten the grip on government printing facilities. A surveillance scheme was introduced to keep track of printing and photocopying equipment in government departments. Photocopying equipment was ordered to be inspected and coded at the Council of Ministers' headquarters and further restrictions were imposed on the importation of typewriters, photocopyers, fax machines and printing equipment.

While Sudanese journalists face the constant threat of imprisonment, foreign journalists are not exempt from harassment and deportation. The expressed view of the government is that the foreign press is biased towards the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) and exists to give them political and moral support. The BBC World Service has been singled out as a main offender. Foreign journalists who apply for visas to visit Sudan are subject to long de-

lays and, even if they surmount this barrier, are restricted in their travel within the country and are at all times accompanied by government agents.

During 1990 several foreign journalists were arbitrarily detained and subsequently deported. At the end of March 1990 the Khartoum bureau chief for Reuters, Hamza Hindawi, an Egyptian, was jailed by security forces. He was released shortly after, apparently through the intervention of the Egyptian authorities, declared persona non grata and expelled from the country.

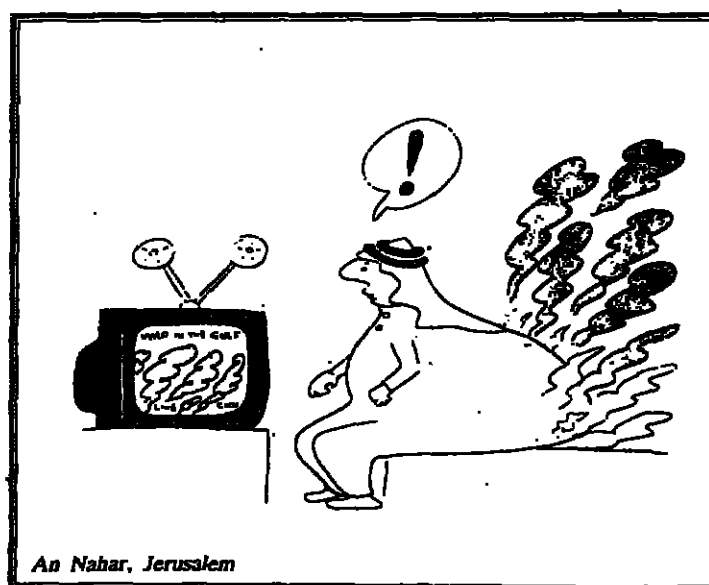
Khartoum Airport now has a security office staffed by high-ranking military intelligence officers, who strictly censor all foreign publications coming into the country.

Famine — A tragic consequence

One tragic consequence of this stringent control of the press has been the official denial of the food crisis which began in western Sudan in 1990 and then spread to many other parts of the north. As ARTICLE 19 demonstrated in its 1990 Censorship Report, *Starving in Silence*, a free press is a vital ingredient in preventing famine because it allows the earliest indicators of impending food shortages to be openly discussed, both nationally and internationally, and serves as a channel for exerting pressure on governments to act. A free press gives potential victims of famine a voice.

The Sudanese government's refusal to acknowledge the extent of the food crisis has impeded any concerted relief action, and thus has allowed the crisis to spread and deepen. International donors are hampered and the national and foreign media have been effectively prevented from covering the developing famine. The absence of such graphic examples of human suffering has, to some extent, reduced the public pressure on donor governments to mount a genuinely humanitarian relief operation in a country which has become decreasingly popular with donors, due to the move towards fundamentalism, and Sudan's support of Iraq during the Gulf war.

Many hundreds of thousands of Sudanese people may well starve in silence, in large part because of the government's control on reporting.



An Nahar, Jerusalem

LETTERS

Insulted and frustrated

To the Editor:

MY feelings of happiness following a recent trip to Aqaba with the family have given way to anger, frustration and sadness on reading a front-page article (Jordan Times, May 10) concerning yet another controversial directive issued by the minister of education. Anger because I feel personally insulted by the minister's remarks which imply that my husband, along with the entire population of fathers/brothers in this country are nothing more than immoral leeches in the presence of their own daughters/sisters and other young girls; frustration because, as a mother, I had high hopes for the process of development in the educational system of Jordan, which I believe holds the key to a highly principled, morally strong and economically sound development process in the Kingdom; and sadness because of the way in which religion is being used and abused to pursue political advantage.

I have lived in Jordan for eleven years and I have grown to love and respect my adopted homeland and its people, its traditions and customs and its religion tolerance. As a Christian, I am keen for my children to learn about Islam so that we may create greater understanding amongst Christian and Muslim children the world over, and I am a firm believer in the benefits and advantages of inter-religious dialogue.

As a parent, I strongly object to this latest directive from the Ministry of Education; not only is it counter-productive and oppressive but it also implies that Jordan society has no moral ethics.

If the minister is so concerned about personal freedoms as stated in the article, then I would like to suggest that he should change his dictatorial directives into a democratic dialogue leading to a cohesive national educational policy to serve and suit all Jordanians based on the family unit. Reinforcing family bondage and trust between parents and children is surely the only way to ensure that our children grow up in a healthy and happy environment to overcome some of the hurdles that undoubtedly lie ahead.

J. Sawalha
Amman

مكتبة من الأصل

Crown Prince pays visit to Zarqa

(Continued from page 1)

The Prince inspected the Zarqa water network project, which is carried out by the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), and took part with workers at the project in digging channels for pipes. Prince Hassan commended their work and called on them to persevere to finish the project in the shortest possible time.

The Prince also visited Janana area and the Zarqa refugee camp and heard people's demands, needs, problems and solutions to these problems.

Prince Hassan also visited several farms southeast of Zarqa to be familiarised with the farmers' needs.

The Crown Prince lauded the farmers for their constructive role in supporting the national economy.

In his meeting with the governor, senators and deputies of the governorate, Prince Hassan said the National Charter, which has been drafted by a general committee, is a step towards developing the political dictionary and organising Jordanian action,

affirming that Jordan's reputation depends on its moderation and the way it addresses the outside world by the language it is using. "Jordanian economic policies will be reviewed comprehensively next September and the problem of unemployment is being tackled seriously," he said.

Prince Hassan stressed the need of finding scientific cadres in the university which will be established in Zarqa and called for concentrating on courses that could serve the Jordanian economy.

He said the Zarqa Basin development project aims at creating a green belt which will serve Zarqa and Mafraq governorates.

The Crown Prince called on industrialists to cooperate with the concerned authorities in the planning process and asked them to dump toxic waste in places allocated for that purpose.

Governor Mohammad Hussein Al Shobaki briefed Prince Hassan on problems facing the governorate and said the conditions of the citizens in the governorate were good thanks to their cooperation.

U.N. takes over Zakho camp

(Continued from page 1)

An Iraqi Information Ministry spokesman denied the report. "No exchange of fire took place between Iraqi soldiers and British troops" in the area mentioned in the reports, the spokesman told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview from Baghdad.

Kurdish leaders have been meeting in Baghdad and Dohuk with Iraqi government and military officials to try to forge an autonomy agreement under which the safety of returning refugees would be guaranteed.

The United States, which sent more than 10,000 troops into northern Iraq to lead the allied effort to secure a safe haven for

Kurds, has said it wants to turn refugee camps over to the United Nations and pull out after a deal is clinched.

"Kurdish leaders are reasonably optimistic about the outcome of their discussions," Gen. Shalikhvili told reporters. "I felt that sense of optimism on the Iraqi side."

But Prince Aga Khan said: "We cannot pause and wait until there is a political breakthrough. We have to deal with the men, women, children, the vulnerable groups who have suffered enough and who need to be rehabilitated." The United Nations, he said, needs more cash in order to take over the massive resettlement operation from the United States and its allies.

Bessmertnykh meets Saudi leaders

(Continued from page 1)

The Soviet Union, we would not have reached the international solidarity we reached in facing the aggression," he told reporters.

He also said he supported the Soviet Union's "great efforts" towards solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and said there was "an opportunity now for moving forward."

From Saudi Arabia, Mr. Bessmertnykh is to travel to Geneva for talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, according to PLO officials in Tunis.

Earlier Monday Mr. Bessmertnykh met in Cairo with Mr. Baker, who asked for help in seeking an Arab-Israeli peace formula.

Soviets: U.S. walking thin line

(Continued from page 1)

of handling the region over to the control of a U.N. police force, and Mr. Baker said Friday it might be necessary to seek a new resolution in the Security Council to establish such a force.

This would create a difficult precedent for the Soviet Union and other countries which do not accept the concept of U.N. involvement in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

Mr. Baker also said both the United States and the Soviet Union would like to hold a summit this summer. But Washington wants first to wrap two outstanding arms control agreements — conventional forces for Europe (CFE) and the strategic arms reduction treaty (START).

Mr. Baker also said both the United States and the Soviet Union would like to hold a summit this summer. But Washington wants first to wrap two outstanding arms control agreements — conventional forces for Europe (CFE) and the strategic arms reduction treaty (START).

Jordan to reaffirm its position

(Continued from page 1)

legitimacy umbrella it requires would be fulfilled when the purpose of the proposed conference is explicitly announced to be the implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 — the land for peace formula.

The legal basis for the conference is resolutions 242 and 338 so the legitimacy of the conference is covered," one official explained. Jordan is expected to remain steadfast on the issue of the how often the conference would be held or whether it would be a one time affair after that, bilateral talks between Arab states and Israel begin.

One official said Jordan "will not accept a situation where Israel has a veto on the conference." The Syrian position, Jordanian officials say, could become more flexible if the U.S. and Israel were able to accept the concept of a peace conference which would be held periodically. "In that case Syria would be willing to move forward with the Americans," said an official.

Already Jordan sees that a compromise was struck between Israel and the Arabs in that the proposed conference is "not a regional conference as Israel wanted nor an

international conference as we have been saying." Foreign Minister Masri, in his interview with Jordan Radio, said: "It is not clear yet what James Baker has achieved, but the matter now depends on Israel and its response to the American efforts."

Jordan and other Arab countries, he said, "have announced their readiness to be flexible to a certain degree, and this degree should not exceed the terms which the Arabs have accepted and not exceed... the principle of land for peace."

Government reviews water measures

(Continued from page 1)

minister has set up an ad hoc committee, which started its meetings Sunday. The committee will prepare a report on the problem soon.

Mr. Sour said the violations by industrial establishments had left their long term effects because of repetitions of these violations since several years, which led to

the accumulation of harmful elements in soil and water used for irrigation.

During the meeting, Mr. Sour said, the Cabinet decided to follow a specified mechanism in implementing resolutions swiftly. One of these urgent measures will be spraying crops in the Jordan Valley by helicopters, he said.

He added that a ministerial committee was formed comprising the ministers of health, municipal, rural affairs and the environment, industry and trade, agriculture, water and irrigation. The task of the committee, according to Mr. Sour, will be to follow up the implementation of resolutions on industrial establishments' compliance with specifications or industrial waste treatment.

Pollution threatens water resources

The following article is reprinted from IDRC Reports, the magazine of the International Development Research Centre of Canada.

WATER. Next to oxygen it is the most important natural substance keeping us alive. To many, it seems to be a free and seemingly endless source of life. But it is not endless.

The relentless demand of an increasing global population is placing an incredible strain on existing water resources. This strain has become critical in the larger urban centres of many developing countries. Here, water supplies are not only subject to overuse but contamination as well. Many cities are having problems with both the availability and the quality of water.

A combination of limited resources and poor water management have resulted in widespread pollution, scarcity, and even land subsidence — the actual sinking of cities caused by excessive groundwater extraction.

The larger cities of the developing world show the most visible signs of these problems. One of the main features of global evolution in the past 50 years has been, and will continue to be, the phenomenal growth of huge urban centres. There are currently as many as 45 cities throughout the Third World with populations nearing, or in excess of, 3 million people.

Eight Third World cities have already exceeded the 10 million mark: Mexico, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Calcutta, Bombay, Cairo, Shanghai, and Seoul. The average growth rates in these cities between 1950 and 1980 was 3.5-4.5 per cent a year. Urban population growth is still very high, placing an extreme burden on water resources.

Population is one of the major causes of water contamination. The water on which cities rely is often polluted by enormous amounts of human waste, sometimes channelled untreated into open bodies of water. Other cities depend on reservoirs that cannot provide enough water for the mushrooming populations forcing people to find alternative, unregulated sources of water.

Urban areas also use large amounts of water for industrial purposes. Once used, these waters suffer significant quality degradation. The polluted waters are then dumped into rivers, lakes, and coastal waters hitting the environment with the double blow of reduced quantity and quality of water. Regrettably, anti-pollution legislation in developing countries is often vague or nonexistent. Where it does exist, it can be easily circumvented.

In most Third World countries, the economy and environment are caught in a negative cycle. To meet their financial obligations, many countries have concentrated on the production of cheap export goods. This prevalence of industry in urban areas — much of it in the form of multinational companies — is bringing about considerable damage to the environment.

Meanwhile, government funding for programmes, such as environmental protection, is often unavailable or way down on the priority list. Many national and urban governments do not have the money, or the will, to make a long-term commitment to their natural resources.



The King Talal dam water that irrigates large areas of the Jordan Valley has been greatly polluted by waste water especially from factories that litter the

Zarqa River basin. The now-barren basin was described by 18th century travellers as a garden in paradise (File photo).

The environment is, in essence, being sold along with the cheap exports. There is an unfortunate string of examples.

Coffee-production wastes are ruining the freshwater environment in the Magdalena and Cauca basins in Colombia, in the Tiete basin in Brazil, in the Eldoret region in Kenya, and in Northeastern Tanzania.

Tanning-industry wastes have completely killed the natural fauna and flora of many streams in the province of Buenos Aires, in Southern Uruguay, in India, and in many other leather-producing countries.

Gold-extraction operations (using cyanide or mercury) are destroying the water environment in many developing countries, such as Brazil, Colombia, and Papua New Guinea.

Some heavily industrialised, large urban centres like Sao Paulo, Calcutta, Mexico City, and Cairo have a particularly poor record of environmental protection of their water resources.

Cities, through their expanding populations and industrial exploitation, are damaging or even destroying their life-giving water resources. These urban areas are only beginning to realise that they cannot keep going to the same well.

Where water comes from

There are two types of water resources used for urban water supply — surface water (rivers and lakes) and groundwater (underground wells and springs). Surface waters are often the easiest source of water and their use can be very straightforward.

These waters, however, are also easily polluted. In most cases, the small- and medium-size streams of Third World cities have become highly contaminated acting as little more than open sewers. Small lakes located near cities have suffered the same fate.

There are scores of cities that have damaged their neighbouring water bodies. Some examples include the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok, the Hooghly River in Calcutta, the Laguna de Bay in Manila, the Tiete River in Sao Paulo, the Bogota River in Bogota, the Xolotlan lake in Managua, and the Amatitlan lake in Guatemala. The list goes on.

Larger bodies of water, like

rivers or lakes, are slightly less vulnerable. They can, however, gradually become polluted and unusable because of increasing demand and a lack of restrictions on usage. Once these sources of water are polluted, the clean-up task is difficult and expensive.

The Nile River downstream of Cairo and the Plate River of Buenos Aires are facing serious and expensive pollution problems.

If current urban growth and environmental degradation trends continue unchecked, it is expected that soon very few, if any, rivers in the developing world will be able to be used for water supply without heavy and expensive treatment procedures.

During the latter half of this century, cities have increasingly used groundwater resources to compensate for the gradual loss of surface water. Many of the 20 larger cities in the developing world pump water from the ground to meet the needs of their populations: Mexico City, Bangkok, Calcutta, Manila, Jakarta, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Beijing, and Shanghai.

Underground water reservoirs are contained in the voids of the sediment and rock underneath the earth's surface. These "aquifers," as they are known to geologists, range from relatively thin and shallow pools to huge volumes hundreds of metres beneath the surface.

This water stored under the ground is often abundant and of high quality. It is also significantly less vulnerable to contamination because it is more or less protected by layers of sediment and rock.

But polluted water can, and in fact has, found its way into the underground reservoirs. Few notice this invisible pollution, but it exists, and it is almost impossible to clean up.

Aquifers, although containing abundant volumes of water, are also finite and cannot accept indefinite extraction beyond their renewal potential.

Unfortunately, not many countries have a clear idea of the renewal potential or the vulnerability of their groundwater resources. Most cities using groundwater — Lima, Beijing, and Manila to name a few — are over-pumping their aquifers beyond their renewal possibilities.

Water levels in Third World

urban areas have been dropping consistently. In Manila, water levels have decreased during the last two decades by about 4-10 m a year; in Beijing the drop in the city's 40,000 wells has ranged from 1 to 3m every year. Similar figures have been registered in Mexico City and Lima.

In some coastal cities, over-pumping has drawn salty sea water inland, a phenomenon that is called saline intrusion. This is the case in Dakar, Jakarta, Lima, and Manila.

Another negative aspect of over-pumping is the dewatering of parts of the aquifer. When water is taken out of the aquifer some moisture also leaves the surrounding layers of sediment. The result is a compaction of the overlying land and a dangerous sinking phenomenon called land subsidence. This has occurred in Mexico City and Bangkok.

Expensive alternatives

The net effect of this deterioration in both ground and surface water resources is increasing costs in finding alternative water supplies. A basic trend of water resource development is that the most accessible water sources are developed first — and often they are contaminated first. New sources of water are difficult to find and more expensive.

Many cities have actually dropped their standards of water quality, allowing consumption of water that would not normally be considered safe. Although information is scant, there is evidence showing that waterborne sickness such as diarrhoea, hepatitis, and cholera have become commonplace in many cities.

Other cities have rationed the supply, with water cuts becoming a part of daily life. But this problem is even more pronounced in the poor and slum sections of large cities. It is estimated that about 200 million urban dwellers in the Third World lack the benefits of safe running water. When urban growth and lack of financial resources force governments to reduce their water service, these neighbourhoods usually feel it the most.

Water resource management in developing cities is not getting better. The costs of water supply schemes are booming and many Third World cities are finding it increasingly difficult to afford them.

Mr. Shamir opposes any role for the United Nations because he considers it biased against Israel.

He wants negotiations with individual states but fears a larger gathering would increase the pressure on Israel to trade land for peace. Members of his ruling coalition have demanded that he refuse any concessions on a full conference.

Another 10 mobile homes were added on Monday to the 20 already in the settlement of Talmon B, which was started just before Mr. Baker's previous visit last month.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, the driving force behind the settlement programme, told a parliamentary committee Monday Israel began construction of 4,500 new homes and installed 1,500 mobile homes in the occupied territories last year.

Mr. Levy arrived in Brussels on Monday to press the European Community (EC) to end what he sees as a pro-Arab bias. Israeli diplomats said Mr. Levy would discuss the community's role in the peace process with EC foreign ministers.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez, speaking to reporters in Madrid Monday, said the EC must take part in

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Sabatini stuns Seles in Italian Open

ROME (AP) — Gabriela Sabatini put in her bid for leadership in women's tennis Sunday, routing top-ranked Monica Seles in two sets to win the Italian Open.

The 21-year-old Argentine, ranked no. 3 in the world, dominated the 17-year-old Yugoslav in a rain-interrupted 6-3, 6-2 victory.

Sabatini, stronger this year than ever before, displayed an aggressive all-court game, rushing the net and scoring winner after winner with sharply angled forehand drives.

She ran off 10 straight points in the 6th and 7th games as Seles seemed unable to find her bearings.

Sabatini jumped out to a 5-3 lead when the rains, which have bedeviled the \$500,000 tournament all week, interrupted play at the Foro Italico.

When the players returned after a 1-hour, 25-minute delay, Seles had changed from a violet to a pink outfit but was unable to change the colour of the match.

Sabatini broke immediately to win the first set, then reeled off the next three games to set up the victory, her third Italian title after wins in 1988 and 1989. Seles won last year.

A packed centre-court crowd of 8,000 roared evenly for both players in what organisers had billed as the "dream final," pitting the top two seeds.

"I am playing better and better. I have a lot of confidence now," said Sabatini, who won \$100,000 for her afternoon's work.

She said the court condition didn't make much difference.

But Seles, losing her second tournament final in a week, attributed part of her problem to the heavy rain-dampened clay. She admitted she will probably face the same conditions at the French Open, the upcoming Grand Slam event on clay.

"It was tough, the court was definitely better for Gaby's game," said Seles, whose game is built around powerful two-fisted groundstrokes. "But I didn't expect the court to be that slow after the rain delay."

Some of her shots seemed to hang long enough for Sabatini to reach them with an extended racket after losing their sting on the damp clay.

Seles, who won \$40,000, conceded that Sabatini played tougher.

"I had my chances. At the close points, she played better," Seles said.



Gabriela Sabatini

In particular, Seles had trouble holding serve. She was broken three times in each set and battled even when she held.

The victory was Sabatini's second in five matches with Seles going back to 1988.

Seles grabbed the no. 1 spot on March 11, ending Steffi Graf's record 186 consecutive weeks at the top. Last week, Graf defeated Seles in three sets in Hamburg.

"There is no question that Gabriela, Steffi, Martina (Navratilova) and I are all very close," said Seles. "It really depends on who is in better shape that particular week and who has a little luck."

Sabatini breezed through Rome, losing only 13 games. Seles was taken to three sets in the semifinals Saturday by Mary Joe Fernandez.

Seles came into Rome 29-3 on the year, including three tournament wins. Sabatini was 29-2 with four tournament victories before the Italian Open.

"I feel very happy. It was difficult but I think the rain favoured me," said Sabatini.

"The interruption was good for me," Sabatini said. "It was getting difficult in the first set, but she was coming up (to the net)."

Asked whether she was ready to go for the world number one spot, Sabatini, having now won three tournaments in row, said: "I've always said I must take one tournament after another. But now it looks as if everything is coming together, both mentally and technically."

Meanwhile, Boris Becker was looking for his first major clay court title and to inch closer to

the no. 1 ranking as the men moved into the Foro Italico Monday in the \$1.2-million Italian Open.

Becker heads the 54-player field that also includes Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Goran Ivanisevic, Sergio Bruguera and Jim Courier.

Becker, ranked no. 2 on the men's tour, has been preparing for the French Open, a Grand Slam event played on clay, by entering Monte Carlo — where he finished second — and now Rome. He is pursuing Stefan Edberg, who is not entered in Rome, for the world's top spot.

At Monte Carlo, the red-haired German lost to Bruguera, a clay court specialist, and may find things tougher for his power game here. The Foro Italico courts can take the sting out of the best of a big service even under ideal conditions.

Agassi's baseline game is more suited to the court conditions. The American, seeded second, reached the finals two years ago, losing to Alberto Mancini of Argentina in five sets.

But Mancini has been sliding, and had to play in the qualifying rounds here while Agassi, ranked fourth in the world, was given a wildcard.

Like Becker, Sampras, seeded third, likes to serve and volley. The tournament has clay court specialists.

They include Bruguera, fellow Spaniard Emilio Sanchez, Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia, the winner at the German Open Sunday, Swedes Jonas Svensson and Magnus Gustafsson and Guillermo Perez Roldan of Argentina.

Senna makes Formula 1 history with Monaco win

MONTE CARLO (R) — Ayrton Senna's fourth win out of four races this season demonstrated more than just the genius of the McLaren driver at the Monaco Grand Prix.

It proved that reliability is more important than ever under the revised 1991 Formula One points-scoring system.

The Monte Carlo victory was Senna's 30th career win and lifted the Brazilian 29 points clear of his nearest rival Alain Prost of France, who finished fifth for Ferrari.

Briton Nigel Mansell, who took second place for his first points since rejoining Williams this season, was full of praise for Senna's talent and commitment after the 31-year-old Brazilian had completed his third successive Monaco win.

But he was also at pains to point out that "this year the championship is more than ever for reliability... and that is why they (McLaren) have won the opening four races."

Mansell did criticise the International Motor Sports Federation (FISA) for the changes, but he made it clear that the new system works in favour of teams which pursue consistency instead of innovation in their car-building.

Mansell's view was backed up Sunday by Williams team manager Peter Windsor. He said that Williams had concentrated their effort this year into building a new car with a semi-automatic gearbox and advanced aerodynamics.

By comparison, McLaren had opted to build a more conservative car, cutting out the opportunities for problems, which relied heavily on two factors: the sheer power of the Honda V12 engine and the brilliance of Senna in the cockpit.

In the past, when only the best 11 results counted, there was less onus on reliability as teams could discount their five worst scores.

This season, the points from all 16 races count.

Senna said Sunday night that he did not think the title race was over because other teams would be ironing out their problems and launching improved challenges in the races ahead.

Mansell and Williams certainly hope to do that. "We have made a lot of progress," he said. "Now we hope we can achieve reliability and really challenge on certain circuits."

Senna added: "Anyone can still stop us from winning the title. It is too early to say it is over. Williams and Ferrari are very competitive and they will develop and get stronger."

"We may have won four races but that is mostly because of the circumstances. It will not always be like that."

Sampdoria has 1st league title 'as good as won'

By Reuters

EVEN coach Vujadin Boskov, whose superstitious nature normally errs on the side of caution, admits that Sampdoria have their first Italian League soccer title as good as won.

"I've never really thought we were going to lose this title," he said after the 1-1 draw at Torino Sunday, a result that left them needing just two points from two games.

"Now, how can we throw it away?" he said.

The league leaders could clinch the title against relegation-threatened Lecce at home next weekend before the trip to Rome for the final match against mid-table Lazio.

"We must finish off the business against Lecce next Sunday because it would be taking a big risk to travel to Lazio having to get a point," he said, before caution took over again.

"We have to keep a cool head and not start celebrating ahead of time," he warned, possibly mindful of Spanish League-leaders Barcelona who lost 4-0 to tail-enders Cadiz Saturday.

After hurriedly calling off the victory celebrations, Sampdoria were handed the championship Sunday when runners-up Atletico Madrid lost 2-1 away to Real Sociedad.

Despite his optimism, Boskov will no doubt be looking over his shoulder at AC Milan, who thrashed relegated Bologna 6-0 Sunday to go second, three points behind the Genoese.

Milan's Dutch striker Marco Van Basten, who has regained his form and who scored a hat-trick, dedicated his goals to compatriot and team mate, Ruud Gullit, who Monday underwent a fourth operation in two years on his right

knee. Boskov will also be wary of Lecce, who beat high-flying Parma 1-0. Polish coach Zbigniew Boniek is convinced his players can continue their recovery in Genoa and avoid the drop.

"We're going to Genoa for a draw because I'm sure that with a draw there and a win against Internazionale Milan at home, we can get through to a relegation play-off," he said.

Marseille, rather more used to winning domestic titles than Sampdoria, are also three points clear at the top in France with two games to go and a hugely superior goal difference.

Marseille, who drew 0-0 in Montpellier, are on course for a treble of European Cup, French League and French Cup.

Second-placed Monaco's chances were virtually wrecked in Nancy where they lost 4-0 and coach Arsene Wenger was furious with the home club for announcing at halftime that Marseille were 2-0 up, apparently to unsettle his team.

"I find it disgraceful," Wenger said. "It's unsporting and even disgusting. It's the first time I've ever seen something like it. I told Nancy's directors what I thought."

Bernard Tapie, millionaire boss of Marseille, ruled Monday that none of his players would be transferred from the French club this summer.

The announcement, made by Marseille Vice-President Jean-Louis Leveau in Tapie's name, came as a surprise because several players, including unsettled striker Eric Cantona and midfielder Philippe Vercruysse, have been linked with other French clubs.

Since taking charge at Marseille five years ago, Tapie has al-

ways bought and sold heavily during the summer transfer market season, usually with five or six major signings and corresponding sales.

Marseille play Red Star Belgrade in the European Cup Final on May 29.

Like Marseille, Barcelona could also make a clean sweep this season since they have the Spanish Cup within their grasp and are in the finals of the European Cup Winner's Cup Wednesday.

"This is the first one," said Johan Cruyff, only the second man in the club's history to win the title both as a player and as a coach. "Now we are going after two more cups."

Arsenal Manager George Graham also wants more trophies.

After seeing his newly-crowned English champions finish the season with a 6-1 win over lowly Coventry, Graham began to plan for next season with the European Cup a top priority.

Swedish international Anders Limpar is his key man.

"He has the hardest shot in the club with both feet... he is so talented he should be getting at least 15 goals a season," he said after Limpar scored a hat-trick Saturday.

PSV stays on top of Dutch League

PSV Eindhoven scored a 3-0 home win over mid-table Willem II Tilburg Sunday to remain ahead of perennial rivals Ajax Amsterdam as the Dutch season built towards an exciting climax.

Reigning champions Ajax won 1-0 at lowly FC Den Haag to stay only two points behind PSV with a game in hand — PSV have four games to play, Ajax five.

If the teams finish level on points the title will be decided on goal difference. PSV, coached by former English Manager Bobby Robson, are currently five goals better off than Leo Beenhakker's Ajax.

PSV, who have struggled for form in the past few weeks, went ahead after 18 minutes when striker Twan Speijers scored and winger Jaul Ellerman made it 2-0 shortly before the halftime.

Brazilian striker Romario, who has recently come under fire from team mates for his selfish attitude on the pitch, scored the clincher a few minutes into the second half.

Ajax turned in an off-colour performance at Den Haag but Dennis Bergkamp, the country's leading scorer, secured both points with his 23rd league goal of the season.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Oh boy, stale bread! I musta died and gone to heaven! Did yot mug a gourmet chef to get that?"

S. Africa could compete in athletics championships

ROME (R) — South Africa will compete in the August World Athletics Championships if they are accepted back into the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, said Monday.

"If they ask to be readmitted and they are accepted, they will compete," he told reporters.

Nebiolo outlined a timetable towards readmission which would culminate at the IAAF's world conference in Tokyo on Aug. 20, four days before the championships.

Then and only then a decision be taken, he said, stressing that there would be no question of granting South Africa provisional membership beforehand.

IAAF officials noted that failure to win readmission to their organisation at the August meeting would probably exclude South African athletes from the 1992 Barcelona Olympics since there is no other IAAF world meeting before 1993.

Membership of the IAAF is mandatory if South Africans are to compete in Tokyo or Barcelona, they said.

Nebiolo was speaking at a news conference to report on the results of last week's four-day trip to South Africa by an IAAF delegation led by his Senegalese vice-president, Lamine Diack.

"We believe we're close to a solution," Nebiolo said. "We hope the problem will be resolved in Tokyo."

South Africa's rival athletics bodies cleared the biggest remaining hurdle to international reintegration Sunday when they announced the formation of a unified, non-racial movement.

Readmission to the IAAF, from which South Africa was suspended in 1976, will also depend on President F.W. de Klerk's keeping his promise to scrap remaining apartheid laws by next month.

In addition, the IAAF has given the newly-formed South African Amateur Athletics Association (SAAAA) until July 1 to write a constitution and launch a development programme.

It particularly wants to see the establishment of a permanent athletics training centre in Johannesburg's black township of Soweto, Nebiolo said.

Yzaga wins men's clay court finals

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (R) — Seventh-seed Jaime Yzaga defeated fifth-seed Jimmy Arias 6-3 7-5 to win the U.S. Men's Clay Court Tennis Championships and his first tournament in three years Sunday.

Yzaga earned \$30,960 in the rain-delayed final. Arias, who

won \$18,230, has lost all seven finals he has played since 1983.

Both players, looking to force play during the baseline exchanges, began nervously in the first set. In the fifth game, Yzaga broke Arias' serve to go up 3-2, with a decisive backhand pass down the line off a weak Arias

backhand volley.

Yzaga, constantly pressuring the weaker Arias backhand, then broke in the seventh and ninth games to take the first set 6-3.

"This game was a huge turning point, it took a lot of steam out of me," said Arias.

Danseuse du Soir romps to French 1,000 guineas

PARIS (R) — Odds-on favourite Danseuse du Soir was a comfortable two lengths winner of the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches — the French 1,000 guineas — at Longchamp Sunday.

Ridden by Dominique Boeuf, Danseuse du Soir missed the break but was soon travelling smoothly and, leading a furlong out, easily accounted for Sha Tha, the mount of Steve Caughen.

Sha Tha edged Caerlina, ridden by Lester Piggott, into third place by a short head.

Winning owner Daniel Wildenstein and his trainer Elie Lelouche are enjoying a marvellous run as they are already represented by unbeaten colt Pistolet Bleu, who Wildenstein confirmed Saturday would now run in the French Derby at Chantilly on June 2 rather than the Epsom Derby three days later.

Jockey Eric Legrix was given a four-day suspension for careless riding on fifth-placed La Carene and the filly was placed last in the field of nine.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q9863 ♠ K103 ♠ Q82 ♠ 76
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 986 ♠ K103 ♠ Q82 ♠ 762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

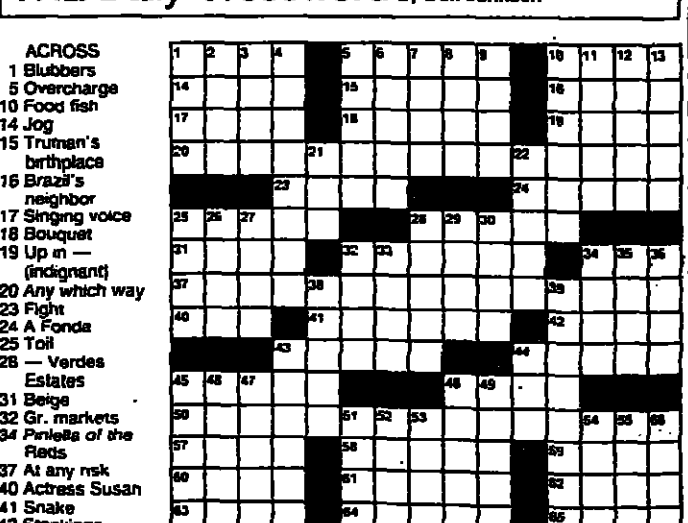
Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9862 ♠ K103 ♠ K2 ♠ A94
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A6 ♠ A98 ♠ Q62 ♠ AK1054
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A764 ♠ Void ♠ KJ87 ♠ KJ1096
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
Dbl 4 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A9 ♠ AK ♠ 98754 ♠ QJ74
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
?
What do you bid now?

THE Daily Crossword by Don Johnson



ACROSS
1 Place
5 Overcharge
10 Food fish
14 Jog
15 Bird's birthplace
16 Brazil's neighbor
17 Singing voice
18 Bounce
19 Up in — (indignant)
20 Any which way
23 Right
24 A Fonda
25 Toll
28 — Verdes Estates
31 Berge
32 Gr. markets
34 Pinhole of the Rats
37 At any risk
40 Actress Susan
41 Snake
42 Stockings
43 Vexes
44 Family members
45 Perry or Jackie
48 Thrash
50 By some means
57 Location
58 To pieces
59 Soothe
60 School on the Thames
61 Waterway
62 Moreno of films
63 Yemen city
64 Penurious
65 Winter vehicle
21 " — Town"
22 Selected
25 Obscene
26 Yarn
27 Sound harshly
28 Havens
29 Comical
30 Funny Bert Johnson
32 Concerning grandparents
33 Actor Richard
34 Appear threateningly
35 Gr. mountain
36 Shoshoneans
38 MN town
39 Talks incessantly
43 "Ivanhoe" heroine
44 Name in China
45 Makers of basketball
46 Ms. Loos
47 — Hall U. NJ
48 Revealed
49 Access
51 Elaborate tale
52 Early Ron Howard role
53 Get excited
54 Salute
55 Noted It. family
56 Study

Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 10/5/1991	Tokyo Close Date 13/5/91
Sterling Pound*	1.7245	1.7265
Deutsche Mark	1.7225	1.7185
Swiss Franc	1.4545	1.4535
French Franc	5.8225	5.8340
Japanese Yen	138.65	139.03
European Currency Unit	1.1945	1.1927

* USD Per STG

** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.81	6.00	6.06	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.81	11.37	11.06	10.87
Deutsche Mark	8.81	9.00	9.12	9.12
Swiss Franc	8.18	8.18	8.12	7.81
French Franc	9.00	9.06	9.12	9.25
Japanese Yen	8.87	7.68	7.56	7.37
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.56	9.56	9.43

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Prices Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	356.65	6.70	Silver	4.03	.087

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.680	.682
Sterling Pound	1.1735	1.1794
Deutsche Mark	.3956	.3976
Swiss Franc	.4677	.4700
French Franc	.1169	.1175
Japanese Yen*	.4894	.4918
Dutch Guilder	.3511	.3529
Swedish Krona	.1105	.1111
Italian Lira*	.0533	.0536
Belgian Franc	.01907	.01917

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7400	1.7600
Lebanese Lira*	.0720	.0740
Saudi Riyal	.1810	.1825
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	.1830	.1855
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7200	1.7400
UAE Dirham	.1829	.1850
Greek Drachma*	.3600	.3610
Cypriot Pound	1.4330	1.4430

* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market*

Index	11/5/1991	Close	12/5/1991	Close
All-Share	113.24		112.72	
Banking Sector	109.76		109.66	
Insurance Sector	111.83		111.81	
Industry Sector	117.64		116.48	
Services Sector	122.47		121.31	

* December 31, 1990 = 100

Major Iraqi refinery returns to full capacity this week

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraq's biggest oil refinery at Beji, north of Baghdad, is expected to be fully operational by mid-May with a total capacity to process 300,000 barrels per day (b/d), raising the country's oil refining to almost near pre-war levels, according to a highly-placed Iraqi source.

"Right now two units with a processing capacity of 100,000 b/d are fully operational at Beji and we expect the third unit to be fully functional by the third week of May," said the source.

According to the source, who preferred anonymity, the Al Dora refinery, on the outskirts of Baghdad, is now running at its full capacity of 92,000 b/d. In addition, "smaller units with output capacities of 10,000 or 15,000 b/d are functional," he told the Jordan Times.

The pre-war refining capacity of Iraq was over half a million b/d and consumption around 400,000 b/d.

"But total refining capacity will be almost at our pre-war level when the Beji facility is fully operational," the source said. "We have carried out repairs drawing from our own expertise and resources and did not have to seek any external help at any stage."

However, the quality of gasoline processed in Iraq remains below international standards. "Some of the processing units which remove pollutants and reduce odour are not operational," the source explained. "Also we do not have some of the vital additives and chemicals to fine-tune the refined oil," he added.

The source confirmed that about 40 billion barrels of oil remained in Iraqi storages at the Saudi port of Yanbu on the Red Sea and at Jihan in Turkey as well as Iraqi pipelines running to the storages.

Turkey and Saudi Arabia — two key partners in the American-led alliance against Iraq — closed the Iraqi pipelines running through their territory shortly after the United Nations

Security Council imposed international sanctions against Iraq for its Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait. All operations through the pipelines, which represented Iraq's oil export lifeline, were stopped and Iraqi terminals were also sealed off.

The sources said Iraq was not planning to resort to "reverse pumping" to get the stored crude back into the country since "almost all our oilfields are now operational to meet our domestic demands."

According to the source, the Yanbu and Jihan storages hold about 15 million barrels of crude, pumped there before the imposition of the sanctions.

"The total length of the pipelines to Yanbu and Jihan is around 3.5 million to four million metres, and this means that they hold around 25 million barrels of oil," he explained.

In any event, said the source, "hypothetically speaking, if we are to get the oil in store in Yanbu back to Iraq the only way to do that is for the Saudis to pump their own oil or gas into the storage and pipelines. But it is not possible with the pipeline through Turkey since the Turks have neither oil nor gas."

The source as well as other Iraqi officials indicated that they remained hopeful that the United Nations Sanctions Committee would soon act upon an Iraqi request to sell \$942 million worth of oil to raise funds to purchase food and medicine.

"Of course they (the sanctions committee) are dragging their feet over it," said one official. "Obviously they have combined everything related to the Gulf crisis and do not make any distinction between what is right and what is wrong."

"We need the funds urgently, and our first exports will be from the Yanbu and Jihan storages," said the official.

"Unfortunately our request is being viewed against a political background by the sanctions committee — or the powers that control it — but it is our hope that the sense of justice and fairness will prevail and we can resume our oil exports soon," he added.

UAE cabinet okays offshore banking plan

DUBAI (R) — Offshore banks are to be allowed to operate in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the country's cabinet decided Monday.

But a statement carried by the UAE's news agency WAM confused bankers because there was no central bank clarification on the type of banks that were going to be allowed to be set up and the scope of their activities.

The agency gave no other details and the finance ministry and

central bank officials were not available for comment.

There is no legislation to regulate offshore banking in the UAE, but there is complete freedom of lending abroad and no foreign currency restrictions which allow the UAE-based banks to deal with other Gulf states, bankers said.

One foreign banker said the statement on allowing offshore banks in the UAE posed more questions than it answered.

CBJ 'watches' market forces at work Banks in Jordan weigh lowering interest rate on deposits, savings

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Liquidity of the Jordanian dinar is so high in the market that the public should not be shocked in the next few weeks if banks and financial institutions in the Kingdom resort to inch down interest on deposits, according to senior banking officials and economists.

A Cairo Amman Bank (CAB) official described the situation as a two-pronged complex — of finding no good lending opportunities and a high risk in credit extension on one hand and, on the other, an influx of funds from the public after the withdrawals which took place before and during the Gulf crisis.

He explained that placements or deposits required from banks and financial institutions to be parked at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) should have been JD 158 million in February. However, due to the aforementioned reasons, the actual amount of parked placements were JD 199 million.

The official further highlighted the "idle money" issue by noting that the placements increased to JD 248 million in April but he was unable to specify the amount which falls as a CBJ requirement.

Another senior banker described the "ordeal" of the banks in more financial terms by saying that the return on assets was low, a situation which was driving the cost of funds higher referring to interest earned and interest paid.



Dr. Abdalla Malki

He said that there was even nothing left of the latest batch of bonds recently released by the CBJ whose instruments usually meets the appetite of commercial banks and financial institutions in the Kingdom.

A top Jordan Kuwait Bank official confirmed that interest rate on "overnight funds" in the interbank market has sunk to a record low of two per cent. The rate hit record highs — sometimes up to seven per cent — during the heydays of Petra Bank.

"There is no market for investments and, under the system of floating interest rates, I can do whatever I like," the official from Jordan Kuwait Bank said when asked about reports of signs to lower interest rates on deposits.

"What we are experiencing now is financial stability within



Dr. Michel Marto

the right market of supply and demand equation," he added noting that there had been no directives from the CBJ on interest rate levels.

Dr. Abdalla Malki, economist and general manager of the Association of Banks in Jordan (ABJ), said that the trend for lower interest rates, if true, would be good for the market and would create a desired activity, but he was quick to remind the Jordan Times of a negative aspect he previously cautioned of.

Dr. Malki said the risk lies in banks lowering their rates on deposits while maintaining them high on loans and other forms of credit thus widening their profit margin. He added that consumers or debtors have no strength to stand up against banks to force lower lending rates upon them.

Describing the Jordanian mar-

ket as "far from perfect," Dr. Malki expected the result from any drop in interest rate to fatten the profits of the banks themselves.

He suspected some man-oeuvring to lure some good clients from one bank to another by offering debtors a slightly lower cost. But, Dr. Malki said, such competition wouldn't be effective and most likely would be very limited.

Asked for further insight into the situation before putting any question to the CBJ, an official at the Housing Bank evaded giving a direct answer to the main and specific question. However, he said he would appreciate receiving information from the Jordan Times if the paper learns of the CBJ's intentions.

Dr. Michel Marto, a CBJ deputy governor, signalled no move by the Central Bank to deal with the excess dinar liquidity in the market and specifically, the banking system.

While rejecting even a quote that the CBJ would or would not be acting or directing the system in any way, Dr. Marto was caught mentioning the word "watching" the supply and demand forces at work.

Asked if "the watching" meant an approval by the CBJ to leave market forces decide the trend, Dr. Marto coolly repeated the theoretical importance of supply and demand unwilling to switch off the "yellow" light for banks to take off freely the road of lower interest rates.

Sudan frees price of farm products

KHARTOUM (R) — Drought-hit Sudan has decided to lift restrictions on the price of farm products to encourage production, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Monday.

The agency quoted Agriculture and Natural Resources Minister Ahmad Geneif as saying prices would be decided by market forces from now on unless there was overproduction.

"However, it is necessary to have stable prices in order to protect the produce during the time of abundance," the minister said without elaborating.

The government, which provides land and water for farmers, has in the past controlled farm prices.

The minister said Sudan will become self sufficient in food this year. Sudan grows cotton, wheat, groundnuts and dura.

Aid agencies estimate that between seven and nine million people face starvation this year due to drought and food distribution problems.

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Israel reports 5.1% GDP rise

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 5.1 per cent in 1990 but fell short of targets set to absorb an influx of immigrants and prevent a sharp rise in unemployment, the Central Bureau of Statistics said Monday.

GDP rose by 1.6 per cent in 1989.

Growth was fuelled by the arrival of about 200,000 Jewish immigrants, most from the Soviet Union, boosting the population by 3.1 per cent, compared with 1.7 per cent growth in 1989.

Exports rose by only 2.2 per cent in 1990, compared to a 3.9 per cent rise in 1989.

A finance ministry plan presented last September set targets for private sector production at 11 per cent and for exports at 13 per cent to curb rising unemployment and avoid massive foreign borrowing.

Unemployment also climbed in April. About 140,000 Israeli job seekers registered with the government employment service, up 12.4 per cent from March.

Imports grew by 8.6 per cent in 1990 after falling 6.6 per cent the previous year.

Israel's net foreign debt at the end of 1990, after discounting Israeli assets abroad, totalled \$15.6 billion, down from \$16.2 billion in 1989.

Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, was 17.1 per cent in 1990, compared to 20.2 per cent the previous year.

The Gulf war further slowed growth in the first two months of 1991 over November and December of 1990, the Central Bureau of Statistics said.



Jacob Frenkel

Industrial output was down eight per cent, construction fell by 25 per cent and tourism dropped 80 per cent.

On the financial side, the Israeli cabinet Sunday appointed an Israeli-American director of research at the International Monetary Fund as the next Bank of Israel governor.

A central bank spokesman said Jacob Frenkel, 48, would return from Washington on Aug. 15 to replace Michael Bruno at the end of his five-year term.

He said Frenkel's international banking experience was expected to help Israel borrow money to finance a wave of Soviet immigration.

Frenkel prepares and conducts meetings of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations and is a member of the G-7 council. Frenkel has said he would relinquish his U.S. citizenship if appointed to the job.

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Fresh violence feeds mood of helplessness in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's government said it would consider reimposing a state of emergency and black leaders postponed settlement talks following a weekend of violence in which blacks killed blacks and whites fought whites.

Frustration and helplessness gripped the country Monday after renewed township battles in which 37 blacks were killed — most of them in a declared unrest area swarming with security forces. Police made six arrests and seized weapons.

"We cannot stop the violence. We cannot stop the killing. We can only control it," said Law and Order Minister spokesman Brigadier Leon Mellett.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok in a television interview said the emergency could be reimposed and political organisations banned again if negotiations failed to end the violence, mainly between supporters of

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and the predominantly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

But the ANC leadership Monday postponed until Friday crisis talks on the township wars. Its deadline for the government to disarm the Zulus of their "traditional" spears and clubs and take effective action to halt the fighting, expires Thursday.

Alarms were also set jangling by the first significant clash between whites since the government began dismantling apartheid 16 months ago.

White-led police wounded two right-wing farmers among 2,000 who tried to evict black squatters trying to reclaim land taken from them under apartheid laws 13 years ago.

The leader of the white supremacist Boerestaat Party, Robert Van Tonder, said the government had crossed a line of no return and predicted another

Boer war if police ever again opened fire on their white brethren.

"It's the start of the revolution," one enraged farmer told Reuters.

Rampaging Zulus, disregarding government bans on dangerous weapons and sweeping aside increased security in the officially-designated unrest area, attacked Swanesville squatter camp west of Johannesburg with assault rifles, clubs and spears Sunday, killed 27 people and destroying 112 dwellings.

At least 10 blacks were killed in political violence elsewhere in the country.

Police dismissing accusations of complicity in the Swanesville attack. A spokesman said they had arrested six hostel-dwellers and confiscated guns and ammunition.

Vlok warned of the possible response to the continuing violence but said the government

would have to consider a clamp-down extremely carefully "because this will cause this country a lot of damage."

Suppression of political activity and the mass arrests of thousands of blacks under the emergency — lifted only last year as part of President F.W. de Klerk's reforms — were among the worst features of the last years of apartheid and helped make South Africa an international pariah.

The ANC on Monday condemned the "brutal massacre" at Swanesville and said there was clear police collusion in it.

"It is beyond belief that all of this can take place in an unrest area without the knowledge of the police," it said in a statement.

The ANC says pro-apartheid rightists in the security forces, outside the control of de Klerk, are trying to destroy its chances of becoming South Africa's first black government in favour of the conservative Inkatha.



Roh Tae-woo
S. Korea orders tough line on protests

SEOUL (R) — An uncompromising President Roh Tae-woo ordered top aides Monday to take a tough line with political protests at the start of a week that looks certain to plunge troubled South Korea into worse turmoil.

He met leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) to discuss the wave of violence that has shaken the country since police beat a student protester to death on April 26.

"(I) cannot forgive violence that destroys legal order," Roh said.

The president called the crisis meeting on the eve of the funeral for student Kang Kyung-Dae, 20, which is expected to bring big demonstrations onto the streets of the capital. Police have said they will allow a short march, but threatened to block any attempt to take the coffin into the city centre.

"Some radical factions are causing social unrest aimed at eventually overthrowing the government by provoking students and workers using a university student's death as an excuse," a presidential spokesman quoted Roh as saying.

"On top of that, some irresponsible politicians are magnifying the problem for their political purpose," he said. "There must not be anything to provoke or beautify such radical activities."

As DLP leaders lunched at the presidential mansion, scores of radical students invaded the party headquarters on the other side of the city, battling police with steel pipes and clubs and smashing windows until they were overpowered. Police made 47 arrests.

The students scattered leaflets in the name of the Chondae-hyop Nationwide Student Alliance, which Monday declared this week a period for a "life or death struggle" by South Korea's one million students to bring down the government and end what they call its "security-oriented rule."

As well as demanding Roh's resignation, the leaflets called for dissolution of the ruling party and the feared "paleoguard" plainclothes riot police, five of whom battered Kang to death with steel pipes as he fled a campus demonstration. They also sought punishment of government and police officials held responsible for the killing.

Roh earlier expressed his deep regret at Kang's death and sacked his interior minister. He has rebuffed calls for his own resignation and that of his cabinet. The five police who beat Kang are facing homicide charges.

The DLP issued a statement calling Monday's raid on the party headquarters "an anti-democratic and anti-academic rebellion which would be regarded as extreme red terrorism."

Floods kill 52 more in cyclone hit Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Floods brought fresh havoc to Bangladesh, killing 52 more people as a U.S. task force arrived to help save millions still battling for survival after last month's devastating cyclone.

Officials said the northeastern town of Sylhet was inundated after the Surma River burst its banks. Fifty-two people drowned in Sylhet and the Mouvi Bazar area, bringing the death toll in floods to 200 in a week.

About one million people in the area were marooned by the rising waters, which have engulfed an area of 656 square kilometres, a Relief Ministry official said.

He said the authorities were alarmed that another cyclone could be on the way, only two weeks after the one that killed more than 135,000 people.

"We are really at our wit's end and really don't know where to fix our priority," the official said.

Dhaka weather officials have spotted a depression in the Andaman Sea, 1,300 kilometres south of the port of Chittagong which took the brunt of last month's cyclone. They say the depression might turn into a cyclone which could hit the country in next two days.

Liberals, Communists locked in tight contest in Nepal poll

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepali Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai could lose his seat in a tight contest between Liberals and communists in the Himalayan kingdom's first free polls in 32 years.

As counting began Monday after Sunday's general election, the United Marxist-Leninist (UML) Party moved ahead in all five prestige contests in the capital, including in the constituency fought by Bhattarai.

With a tiny percentage of votes counted, Interim Prime Minister Bhattarai was trailing UML General Secretary Madan Bhandari.

For many Nepali voters who have gathered outside counting centres since polls closed Sunday night, it will be an agonising long wait for results from an election that marks the end of absolute monarchy in Nepal.

Voting would have to be held again in villages in 25 of the 205 constituencies returning candidates to the new parliament, the election commission announced Monday.

Most of the new polls were called due to political violence, in which at least 25 people were injured.

"In one case ballot papers were thrown into the village pond by excited voters," government spokesman Shailendra Raj Sharma said.

"In another, the polling officer couldn't unseal the ballot boxes for voting. He tried and tried all day."

The commission is still awaiting ballot boxes from many hill villages that can only be reached on foot.

Kathmandu voters were spell-bound by state-run television as it slowly updated the vote count in contests between Nepal's best-known ex-dissidents.

U.S.-Soviet summit expected in summer

MOSCOW (AP) — The long-delayed superpower summit may be held in Moscow in late June or early July despite lingering arms disputes and a fire that crippled the U.S. embassy in the Soviet capital, a Kremlin spokesman said.

President Mikhail Gorbachev "wants a summit in Moscow," said his deputy spokesman Sergei Grigoriev, and he is pressing his aides to resolve questions on conventional and strategic arms treaties.

"I think the Americans need a summit, too," Grigoriev said Sunday. He said U.S. President George Bush's victory in the Gulf war had been tarnished by subsequent Iraqi attacks against Kurds.

Other Soviet officials have been arguing in recent days that Gorbachev and Bush both could bolster their images by holding a summit. Such meetings usually produce treaties and are accompanied by great fanfare, often being seen as foreign policy successes for the leaders.

Gorbachev, however, is still smarting from an unsuccessful trip last month to Japan, where government and business leaders refused his appeals for economic aid. They told him that further domestic reforms were needed before a new infusion of foreign aid.

Gorbachev subsequently blamed the U.S. government for pressing the Japanese to turn down the aid request.

Bush and Gorbachev seemed to clear the air Saturday with a 45-minute telephone conversation in which Bush agreed to send a team of economic advisers in Moscow.

A U.S. economic team, headed by Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder, is due in Moscow next weekend to advise the Soviets how to improve their food distribution system. Crowder also will report back to Bush on a Soviet request for \$1.5 billion in credits to buy American grain.

Six more killed in Indian poll violence

NEW DELHI (R) — Six more people have died in pre-election violence in India, while Maoist guerrillas freed a prominent political leader Monday after four of their jailed colleagues were released.

Sudhir Kumar, 31, the head of the youth wing of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party in the Andhra Pradesh state assembly, was released at an unknown location, police in the state capital of Hyderabad said.

The Maoists, who have called for a boycott of this month's election, stormed into Kumar's Hyderabad home in broad daylight Saturday and seized him after killing two of his aides.

The guerrillas, belonging to the powerful People's War Group (PWG), killed a Congress legislator last week soon after issuing the boycott call. The group said elections were a fraud because poverty could be relieved only through armed struggle.

Indian news agencies reported six people had been killed since Saturday in campaign violence, bringing the toll to 47 in what analysts say could be India's bloodiest polls since it won independence in 1947.

The body of an independent candidate for Punjab's state assembly election was found Monday in Jalandhar district, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

Kamaljit Singh, who had been missing for a week, was the fifth candidate killed in the state since polling dates were announced last month.

Three supporters of an independent candidate were killed and five injured when their jeep was fired on in Rampur district in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh at the weekend, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said.

Two Janata Dal Party workers were killed in a bomb explosion in the eastern state of Orissa. Police suspect the two were killed while making the bombs, PTI said.

Twenty-two of India's 25 states go to the polls on May 20, 23, and 26 in an election that most analysts believe will result in a hung parliament, perpetuating the political impasse that has gripped the world's most populous democracy for months.

The northeastern state of Assam, troubled by a Maoist insurgency, goes to the polls on June 6 and 8. Punjab, which has battled a Sikh separatist campaign for nearly a decade, elects its state and national representatives on June 22.

Pope gives thanks for overthrow of communism

FATIMA, Portugal (R) — Pope John Paul, kneeling before the altar that nearly killed him 10 years ago, thanked the Virgin Mary for freeing nations from communism.

"Thank you, heavenly mother, for having guided peoples towards liberty," the Pope said, praying at the Shrine of Fatima, symbol of the Roman Catholic Church's fight against communism.

"We now want to find the road the peoples of the entire European continent must take," history's first Polish pontiff said, hailing the end of the division of Europe.

The Pope was speaking after a local Portuguese bishop attributed the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe directly to the Pope's devotion to Fatima.

"(Your faith) was rewarded in a surprising way with the sudden opening and progressive liberation of the heroic nations of Eastern Europe," said Alberto Cosme Do Amaral, bishop of Leiria.

The Virgin Mary is said to have made a series of prophecies to Portuguese shepherd children on a Fatima hillside in 1917. The best known, made a few months before the Bolshevik Revolution, was that Russia would spread "errors" through the world, but would eventually be converted.

the century, an annual three per cent rise — "the highest regional growth rate the world has ever seen."

The population of Nigeria, Africa's most populous state with 108 million people, would double in the next 20 years, it said.

At the same, UNFPA pointed to a dramatic increase in the use of modern contraceptive methods in developing countries, from 10 per cent of couples in the 1960s to 51 per cent today.

It said its target was to raise this to 59 per cent by the end of the century.

"Special attention will be needed to develop better methods for men, to encourage them to take more responsibility for family planning," UNFPA executive director Nafis Sadik said in an introduction.

Fertility — the number of births per woman — was also dropping in all parts of the world, with particularly sharp falls in Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea, the report said.

The report said the cost of meeting its family planning targets would be about \$9 billion per year by the end of the century, double today's rate, and international aid would be needed to cover about half of this.

But it said this would be "far smaller than the cost of failure" measured in the extra education and health care that would be needed.

World population may top 10 billion by 2050 — U.N.

LONDON (R) — The world's population, currently 5.4 billion, is likely to top the 10 billion mark by the middle of the next century, much sooner than previously thought, a United Nations report said Monday.

Experts are revising their estimates upwards despite striking successes by family planning programmes in spreading the use of contraception and bringing down birth rates, said the annual report by the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA).

"Instead of a stable total of about 10.2 billion in 2055, the world may well reach 10 billion by about 2050, and significant growth will continue for another hundred years after that," said the report, "The State Of World Population."

"Population may eventually level off at about 11.6 billion," it added.

The report, which gave no reason for the revised estimates, said that in the Third World the rapid population rise was straining health and education systems, hitting the environment, causing explosive urban growth and complicating food supply.

Developing countries' cereal imports, which stood at 69 million tonnes in 1983-85, were expected to total 112 million tonnes by the end of the century, added the report, published in London.

It said the population was growing fastest in Africa, and would expand from 650 million today to 900 million by the end of

the century, an annual three per cent rise — "the highest regional growth rate the world has ever seen."

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Colombian drug baron 'plans to surrender soon'

BOGOTA (R) — Drug baron Pablo Escobar plans to surrender to Colombian authorities soon and has promised to release two journalists held captive, a Roman Catholic priest who met with him said Sunday.

The Reverend Rafael Garcia Herreros, a popular television figure and charity fund raiser, said in a television interview that he was "absolutely sure" Escobar would turn himself in soon.

Asked why, the priest answered: "Because I had a long conversation with him and he is a more serious and more determined person than what one would imagine."

The priest said Escobar, the head of the Medellin cocaine cartel, had asked for security guarantees when he met with him last week.

He also said Escobar promised to free in the next week two journalists he held captive since the end of last year. In recent statements Escobar threatened to murder the journalists unless police stopped abusing his colleagues' human rights.

Garcia Herreros said Tuesday that he had received a letter from Escobar saying he was willing to surrender and be prosecuted if the government tried police officers for what he called torture of drug traffickers.

Authorities have accused Escobar of masterminding a year-long war against the government in which over 2,000 people were killed in assassinations and bombings.

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Geography, Soviet army play major roles in Armenian border dispute

MUTADARA, USSR (AP) — Sheep graze peacefully through the green hills around this Azerbaijani mountain village, and the loudest sound is the murmuring of a brook fed by melting snow.

But the tranquility is deceptive: Soviet tanks are hidden under camouflage netting, and soldiers in full combat gear keep a 24-hour watch on the hillside to prevent clashes between Azerbaijanis and Armenians.

From one bunker, Armenian territory is visible both to the east and the west — testimony to the crazy-quilt of border settlements that makes separating the feuding ethnic groups so difficult.

"It's quiet, but that's because we're here to keep the peace," said Soviet army Lt. Arzu Geidarov, surveying the pastureland with an AK-47 rifle slung over his shoulder and a cigarette in his mouth. "There's no telling what would happen if the army withdrew."

Geography is an ancient and immutable factor in the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Soviet army is a new, and changing, one.

The dispute has claimed more than 50 lives in the last two weeks, and hundreds of casualties

in the last three years. At times, the army has played a neutral role, trying to separate the militants and keep the peace. But since late April, its neutrality has been called into question.

One by one, eight Armenian-populated villages on both sides of the border have been surrounded and disarmed — sometimes brutally — by the army and special Interior Ministry troops.

Such action has been taken against Azerbaijani villages.

Interior Minister Boris Pugo told the Supreme Soviet legislature last Tuesday that the troops were trying to prevent bloodshed by carrying out President Mikhail Gorbachev's July 1990 order to disarm "illegal armed bands."

But neither Pugo nor any other top Kremlin official has explained why the soldiers are disarming only Armenians, not Azerbaijanis as well. Both sides are believed to harbour thousands of militants armed with automatic rifles, grenade launchers, armoured vehicles and even helicopters.

Anatoly Shabard, a Russian Republic lawmaker on a fact-finding tour of the embroiled region, told the Associated Press he believed the Kremlin was siding with

Azerbaijan because it is staunchly Communist and plans to sign Gorbachev's new union treaty.

Armenia's government, in contrast, is anti-Communist and wants to secede from the Soviet Union. It did not take part in Gorbachev's national unity referendum on March 17 and has refused to negotiate toward a union treaty.

Armenia's president, Levon Ter-Petrosian, recently called Communists "parasites" and nationalised the party's property in Armenia. Gorbachev immediately declared the order illegal, but the party has been forced to move out of its headquarters in Yerevan, the Armenian capital.

Ter-Petrosian told reporters last week that he believed the Soviet army was trying to punish Armenia and raise the popularity of Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov among his own people.

"We are dealing with a pure act of aggression, an act of undeclared war against Armenia," he said.

Mutalibov expressed satisfaction that "the leadership of the Soviet Union is now performing

its constitutional duty to the people of Azerbaijan, ensuring the defence of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our republic," according to TASS, the Soviet News Agency.

Hostility between Armenia, a mainly Christian republic of 3.3 million people, and Azerbaijan, a mainly Muslim republic of 7 million, goes back centuries. It involves conflicting claims to land and water, as well as religious and cultural differences.

From the air, Armenian and Azerbaijani villages are immediately distinguishable. The Armenians are primarily farmers, with large gardens around their homes and orderly rows of crops around their settlements. The Azerbaijanis are primarily shepherds, with animals in their courtyards and sheep or cattle grazing around each village.

During the civil war that followed the 1917 revolution, all three of the Transcaucasian republics — Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan — declared independence. They are south of the Caucasus Mountains, between the Black and Caspian Seas.

After signing an alliance with Turkey in early 1920, the Bolsheviks invaded Transcaucasia and

conquered Azerbaijan by May of that year, Armenia by December and Georgia by April 21.

The borders of the three republics were set by the Kremlin in 1923 according to the ethnic makeup of various villages, with little regard to the future. The frontier zig-zags across hillsides and winds through valleys, rarely following a straight course for more than a kilometre.

Complicating the situation are a number of enclaves, or so-called autonomous regions, like islands in the middle of hostile territory. There are Armenian enclaves in Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijani enclaves in Armenia.

The recent violence began in 1988 over the largest enclave, Nagorno-Karabakh. In the 18th century, it was a separate Khanate, or Muslim "princedom."

Since 1923, it has been legally controlled by Azerbaijan, although most of its 160,000 people are Armenian.

Fighting also has been fierce in Nakhichevan, a 5,490-square-kilometre (2,120-square-mile) Azerbaijani region sandwiched between western Armenia and Turkey, far from the rest of Azerbaijan.

COLUMN

Fans pay cash tribute to Britain's TV time-lords

LONDON (R) — Six hundred people packed a London auction room to buy memorabilia from the British cult TV series Doctor Who, shown in more than 60 countries worldwide. Fans bought costumes, ray-guns and other technical gear from the 27-year-old science fiction programme about Doctor Who — a wizard-like "time lord" wandering through time and space to reach his own planet. Costumes of Cybermen, Silurians, humanoid reptiles, Savar, devils and a large worm-like alien called a Tractator were all under the hammer. But the prize catch for the show's addicts, who call themselves "Who-ies," were two models of a dachshund, a dog which in popular British culture has come to epitomise evil. Its monotone, electronic voice has chilled generations of young fans as it screams "exterminate, exterminate" at its victims. "In the ultimate, isn't it?" said David Melven, 29, who paid \$6,400 (\$11,000) for a dachshund. "You can't put a price on it," he said of his new toy, which looks like an upside-down dustbin with a dome-like lid. "It's a classic example of British television. Doctor Who is probably the most popular show, what else is there," said Melven.

Campaign launched for better pesticide labels

LONDON (R) — Supporters of an international campaign want the World Health Organisation (WHO) to set up a labelling system for pesticides used on food. The campaign, backed by 11 British voluntary groups, calls for foods treated with pesticides to be labelled with a "P" and given a number that could be understood by consumers and retailers around the world. Parents for Safe Food, one of the groups involved, said this year one billion gallons (5.4 billion litres) of pesticides would be sprayed on British land and 40 million sheep would be dipped in pesticide. "With retailers beginning to introduce their own pesticide reduction schemes and eco-labels, it is essential that consumers have a simple scheme that allows them to cut through the verbiage," said Dr. Tim Lang, director of Parents for Safe Food. But the British Agrochemicals Association (BACA), which represents pesticide manufacturers, said the system might lead to confusion. "Imagine the information needed on a can of vegetable soup of fruit salad from all the many and various crops that went into that tin," said BACA Director John Page. He said the industry appreciated that consumers needed information but there was now a choice to buy organic produce and it would be very costly to make the system work.

Guard halts woman driver — 'sorry, ma'am'

LONDON (R) — A security guard got the shock of his life on Sunday when he realised the woman driver he stopped was none other than Queen Elizabeth. Carl Shimmis flagged down the queen as she drove into horse trials near her Windsor Castle home, west of London. "I was under strict orders to make sure no one came into the show without a proper pass," embarrassed Shimmis told the Daily Mirror newspaper. "When the car pulled up next to me I got a real shock — the queen was the woman driving," he said after waving the unmarked saloon car into the showground. "My God, it's Her Majesty," gasped a car park attendant. Buckingham Palace said the queen often drove herself around the Windsor area.

Italian actress gets suspended sentence

ROME (AP) — Italian film star Laura Antonelli was given a 3 1/2-year suspended sentence and fined 24 million lire (\$19,000) for possession of 36 grams (1 1/4 ounces) of cocaine that police found at her home. The actress was released at the end of the two-hour court appearance. She had been jailed for three days after her arrest last month and then placed under house arrest on April 30 at her villa in Cerveteri, 30 miles (50 kilometres) north of Rome. The court revoked the house arrest. The charge carried a maximum sentence of eight years in prison, and prosecutors sought a four-year prison term.